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Palestinian exports to Jordan increase 10 fold

AMMAN (AP) — Palestinian exports to Jordan have increased 10 fold since May, when the Kingdom and the Palestinian National Authority signed a preferential trade accord, the Ministry of Trade and Industry said Monday. Jordanian exports to the West Bank and the Gaza Strip had dropped to zero after Israel captured the West bank and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. Figures released by the ministry showed that the volume of trade between Jordan and the autonomous Palestinian territories in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho have climbed to 16.3 million dinars (\$23.3 million) over the past year. Of the total, the ministry said, Jordan exported black cement and educational books worth 1.8 million dinars (\$2.6 million) since May. Jordan imported citrus products, vegetable gec, steel bars and marble stones worth 14.5 million dinars (\$20.7 million), the ministry said. Palestinian exports to Jordan amounted to \$2 million before May 4, when Jordan and the Palestinian National Authority allowed for the exchange of more than 20 items under preferential treatment.

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Suicide bomber blows up Tel Aviv bus; six killed and 33 injured

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — A suspected suicide bomber blew up a crowded commuter bus Monday during morning rush hour, killing six people and wounding 33 others in a deadly attack near the city's Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan.

At least 33 people, including a 13-year-old boy, were wounded in the attack near the busy diamond exchange in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan.

Police said the fragments of a body found at the centre of the blast amid charred metal and shards of glass may have belonged to the suicide bomber.

An anonymous caller to the Associated Press, speaking in Arabic, claimed the attack was carried out by the military wing of the Islamic group Hamas "because of Israel's violation of accords and procrastination in implementing the accord with Palestinians."

The attack came a day before Israel and the PLO's target date for an agreement on expanding autonomy in the West Bank.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin ordered a suspension of the PLO-Israel talks, which were underway at a Dead Sea resort and said they would not resume until after the funerals of the victims. But Mr. Rabin said he would not let the attack stop the peace process.

"We don't intend to allow the extremists to achieve their political aims," he said.

"We are determined to talk with those who did not carry out attacks and want to stop them."

PLO leader Yasser Arafat called the attack an attempt to undermine the peace process and condemned what he called "terrorist activities."

Palestinian Economics Minister Ahmad Qouria said the talks would resume in a day or two.

Mr. Rabin said security on buses would be increased and that he expected "far more effective action" from both Israel and the Palestinian Authority to stop terrorist attacks.

Israel closed roads leading to the West Bank and the autonomous Gaza Strip, barring Palestinian workers from jobs in Israel. In Tel Aviv, police gathered Arab workers from construction sites, bus stops and restaurants to prevent reprisal attacks.

Witnesses who arrived shortly after the explosion said mangled bodies and body parts were strewn on the floor of the bus. The bomb tore a hole in the side of the bus and blew out all the windows.

"The bus stopped at the intersection, and I heard an explosion," said Shlomi Uziel, a 23-year-old university student who was sitting on the rear seat. "People screamed. I didn't know what was happening. I jumped out the window at the back of the

bus. I couldn't see anything because there was blood all over my face."

Mr. Uziel, who was slightly injured by flying glass, said wounded passengers were lying on the floor of the bus.

Orthodox Jews dressed in black, members of Israel's burial society, collected flesh and blood from the scene for burial.

Hundreds of onlookers gathered near the scene and lit candles in memory of the victims. A small group of about 50 people shouted "death to the Arabs" and slogans against Mr. Rabin.

"This peace is killing us," one sign read.

Before Monday's attack, 126 Israelis had been killed in militant attacks since the Israel-PLO accord was signed on Sept. 13, 1993.

A caller to Israel radio's Arabic service attributed the attack to Yehiya Ayash, known as the engineer, who is believed to have masterminded other fatal bombing attacks.

"The cells of Yehiya Ayash, the military wing of Hamas, is responsible for the attack and one of its members has carried out the operation," the anonymous caller said.

Ehud Ya'ari, Arab affairs correspondent for Israel television, said the caller to at least some news agencies was "a well-known nuisance ... who should not be treated seriously."

(Continued on page 7)

World condemns attack

TEL AVIV (R) — The United States, Britain, France and Italy joined Israel's peace partners, the PLO and Jordan in condemning Monday's bombing of an Israeli bus by an Islamic militant in which six people were killed.

Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said such "terrorist crimes" only served the enemies of Arab-Israeli peace.

"We reject such acts... it harms all the issues in the region and damages the peace process," he told the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

"Such terrorist acts do not serve any cause of interest except the cause of the enemies of peace."

President Bill Clinton condemned "in the strongest possible manner" the attacks, saying those responsible were seeking to deny peace to Israelis and Palestinians but that "they shall not be allowed to succeed."

"We join with all those working for peace in expressing our outrage and condemning in the strongest possible manner this brutal act," Mr. Clinton said.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher phoned

(Continued on page 7)



The body of an Israeli woman lies outside the Tel Aviv bus that was blown up yesterday by a suicide bomber killing six and injuring 33 (AFP photo)

King condemns Tel Aviv attack and, 'those who abuse, lure our youngsters'

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday condemned a suicide bomb attack on a bus near Tel Aviv which killed six people and injured 33 and underlined that such acts could undermine the Middle East peace process.

At a meeting with the recently-elected mayors and municipal council members who represent 259 municipalities around the Kingdom, King Hussein described the bombing as an ugly act aimed at disrupting the peace process at a time when the Palestinians were about to reach agreement with the Israelis on expanding the self-rule.

"I condemn those who abuse and lure our youngsters into joining the ranks of those who fight against and reject peace, those who want more suffering and harm to befall the Palestinians and all other peoples," the King said.

"The act was aimed at sinking the peace process and I hope that will not happen," King Hussein continued. "When we hear of such incidents we can imagine what our reaction would be in case a car explodes in downtown Amman among unarmed crowds, including women and children."

He said: "We have a serious duty of defending our faith and Islam and carrying out our duties, acting together as one united family."

King Hussein said Jordan's

units serving with the U.N. peace-keeping troops in former Yugoslavia have offered great sacrifice and are doing their duty but "we can by no means accept that our troops be humiliated and we strongly demand an end to aggression so that the U.N. troops can pursue their humanitarian role."

The King lauded Jordanians for rallying to support the Bosnian people and extending a helping hand to a people plagued by tragedies and suffering.

Saying the general municipal elections held earlier this month served as a new referendum for the people, His Majesty congratulated the newly elected mayors and municipal council members and urged them to live up to the expectations of their local communities and to exert sincere efforts to serve the public.

Addressing the newly elected mayors and municipal council members at the King Hussein Sports City, King Hussein said: "We thank God that the government was able to conduct free and fair municipal elections and we thank God also that Jordanians have made their choice of a group of men and women who will shoulder the responsibility of construction and development."

"I congratulate you on being elected to serve Jordan

at a sensitive stage of its history and hope that you will rise above all petty differences in your pursuit of construction and in handling public matters and to be keen on safeguarding the interests of all citizens," said King Hussein, voicing pride in the council members and mayors and pledging support for their endeavours.

Urging the councils to exert their utmost effort to serve the public, the King said: "We want this country to serve as a model for others in terms of cohesion among its citizens and close cooperation among officials in exercising their various duties."

He wished the councils success in their efforts during their four year tenure and said: "By God's grace we will achieve prosperity and progress and we hope to acquire all the requirements that will help us achieve that goal."

"I do not want the march towards progress in this country to be linked to a sole person but rather I wish to see the march connected with and reflecting your views, your determination and your awareness and cooperation because the leadership of this country draws on your strength and aims at protecting your interests and always responds to your conscience and your hearts because you represent the people of this country," the King said.

One year on Washington Declaration: Jordan committed to peace, but perceptions take time to change

By Beatrix Immenkamp
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, on the first anniversary of the Washington Declaration, renewed Jordan's commitment to all agreements it has signed with Israel.

"We, in Jordan, are committed to what we have signed, and expect with goodwill a similar commitment from the other side," the minister told the Jordan Times in a statement.

He said he expected all outstanding agreements between the two countries to be signed by August 10, the deadline for concluding all the agreements foreseen by the October peace treaty.

He added, however, that all parties should accept the

notion that "long decades of belligerence would need some time to create a change of mentality to deal with the new atmosphere of peace."

This would require individuals to feel the tangible benefits of peace, to enable them to defend and maintain this peace," he said.

The Washington Declaration, in which His Majesty King Hussein and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed an historic agreement ending 46 years of war, opened the way for the October 26 peace treaty between Jordan and Israel last year, which secured to Jordan its rights in territory, and water.

"Jordan expects that peace will pave the way for

a shift from a state of tension that lasted for decades to a state of normal relations that will employ peace for the sake of the creation of a positive change in the economic and social life of the people of the area," Mr. Kabariti said.

The Washington Declaration and the October peace treaty, important steps on the road to achieving a just, durable and comprehensive peace in the Middle East as envisaged by the Madrid Peace Conference, led to the signing of a set of protocols covering many areas of cooperation.

Out of these, Jordan has so far concluded two agreements with Israel. Eight agreements are in their

stages and should be concluded before August 10, according to the term of the treaty.

The agreements which have been signed so far are on tourism and security. Two new border crossings between the two countries were opened in the past year, and scores of tourists have crossed in both directions. Exact figures for Jordanians who have visited Israel in the past year are not available, but the Israeli Embassy in Amman puts the number at around 8,000-10,000. The number of Israeli tourists who have visited Jordan has reached approximately 80,000, with 120,000 expected by the end of the year.

(Continued on page 7)

Arafat visits in few days

AMMAN (R) — PLO chief Yasser Arafat will visit Jordan in the next few days to discuss his peace talks with Israel and to review cooperation accords on ties between Amman and Palestinian self-rule areas, a PLO official said on Monday.

The visit of President Arafat to meet His Majesty King Hussein will happen in the coming days, Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein told reporters. "And I believe it is necessary," He gave no exact date.

Qatar to ship gas through Suez

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Qatar has agreed to transport its natural gas to Europe by tanker through the Suez Canal after it accepted an up to 35 per cent discount on toll rates, the chairman of the Suez Canal Authority said in an interview released Monday.

Ezzat Adel told Egypt's Middle East News Agency that the Qatari natural gas would start being transported to Europe in 1997, and some four million tonnes of natural gas would transit the waterway annually. Qatar had been discussing with Israel the possibility of transporting natural gas by pipeline across the Jewish state, but that proposal brought sharp criticism from other Arab states.

UNESCO regional HQ returns to Beirut

BEIRUT (AFP) — UNESCO head Federico Mayor said here Monday he would reopen the U.N. organization's regional offices in Lebanon transferred out of the country during the 1975-1990 civil war. The director general of the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation told journalists that his four-day visit to Beirut would be devoted to "re-launching cooperation" with Lebanon. On Tuesday he will officially reopen the UNESCO headquarters in Beirut which were transferred to Amman during the civil war. "The relations with the country of the cedar trees are much improved," Mr. Mayor said.

Western troops deploy around Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Hundreds of troops from the new rapid reaction force completed their deployment on a mountain-side outside Sarajevo Monday in an unprecedented show of force designed to discourage Bosnian Serb attacks on U.N. peacekeepers in the Bosnian capital.

Meanwhile the Western allies made clear to Bosnian Serb military commander General Ratko Mladic they would defend all safe areas in Bosnia, not just Gorazde, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Monday.

He said a 16-nation meeting in London last Friday on Bosnia led to "a new determination... to try to ensure that the Serbs are on full notice that they cannot continue with these attacks on the safe areas."

Approximately 300 British troops and some 500 French legionnaires from the force had reached Mount Igman late Monday afternoon, the U.N. Protection Force announced.

The main component of their weaponry is 12 artillery field guns which U.N. officials said will vastly improve the peacekeepers' ability to respond to Serb attacks.

Up to 500 French and British soldiers will eventually be positioned on Mount Igman. The additional troops there now are to help with the deployment of the guns, dig gun emplacements and establish communications with U.N. Sector Sarajevo under whose command they fall, UN military spokesman Chris Vernon said.

Of those that remain most will provide protection for the troops who will operate the 12 computer-controlled 105mm artillery guns, Vernon said. The computerised command post for the guns charts trajectories and the positions of targets.

The two batteries of a British regiment are supported by an infantry com-

pany previously based in central Bosnia as part of the peacekeeping force. Some 12 French AMX-10 light tanks are also on the mountain.

Both French and British officers will be in charge of operational command and communications, UNPROFOR said.

More accurate, sophisticated and flexible than heavy mortars already used by the United Nations peacekeepers, the British artillery guns deployed on the mountain to the south of Sarajevo give the peacekeepers the ability to hit a number of targets quickly in rapid succession, UN officials said.

"The message we are giving out is if the (Serbs) hit us we will hit you and we will hit you with slightly harder stuff than we have had before," Mr. Vernon said.

But while French and British troops were deploying on Mount Igman, a U.N. spokesman reported that there had been intense Serb pressure over the weekend on Bihac, a U.N.-declared safe area that borders with Croatia.

Fighting appeared to have subsided Monday. "Sporadic explosions were recorded along the western confrontation line," a U.N. spokesman said.

Croatian Serbs and rebel Muslim forces loyal to local warlord Fikret Abdic, who are armed and supplied by the Croatian Serbs, attacked to the west and north while the Bosnian Serbs attacked to the south and east, said Mr. Vernon.

The Croatian government, which is also fighting Serbs in its territory, has said that it would feel obliged to step in if Bihac appeared to be needy to fall.

"This coordinated, deliberate attack on all fronts represents the most considerable military action in Bosnia for many months," Mr. Vernon said.

U.N. civil spokesman Alexander Ivanko called the attacks by Croatian

Serb forces which crossed Croatia's recognised border with Bosnia a "flagrant violation" of international law and demanded their withdrawal.

At last Friday's meeting in London western leaders warned Bosnia's Serbs they would face a "substantial and decisive response" if they carried out attacks on Gorazde.

U.S. French and British officials have subsequently extended the warning to cover the other remaining safe areas Tuzla, Bihac and Sarajevo.

The NATO Council, the alliance's governing body, was due to meet in Brussels Tuesday to work out the operational details for directives if they are ordered to back up the threat made in London.

The meeting was suspended from Monday after differences resurfaced between Britain, France and the United States over the role of the United Nations in ordering such air raids.

The United States prefers curtailing the involvement of U.N. commerce in Bosnia in deciding where and when to launch air strikes, while Britain and France, which have peacekeepers on the ground, continued to insist on close coordination with the United Nations.

Jordan seeks Greece's good office

In Amman Prime Minister Zeid Ben Shaker called on Greece to use its "special ties" with the Serbs to pressure them into halting their attacks against Muslims in Bosnia.

"The special ties between Greece and the Serbs could help international efforts to put an end to attacks against Bosnia-Herzegovina," Sheriff Zeid said while receiving Greece's foreign minister Carlos Papoulas.

The prime minister, quoted by the official Petra

(Continued on page 7)

Qadhafi against Muslim state in Bosnia

SIRTE, Libya (Agencies) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Bosnia Muslims should not seek an independent state and added he did not believe a Western military offensive against Bosnia Serbs would work.

The maverick leader, speaking in a tent in the Libyan desert, broke ranks with other Arab leaders who have urged more help to Bosnian Muslims and restricted himself to urging Bosnia Serbs not to deport Muslims in areas they conquer.

"Muslims are not the masters of Bosnia-Herzegovina. The interest of Muslims is to stay in a unified Yugoslavia and not in the fighting between (Bosnian Muslim President Alija) Izetbegovic and (Bosnian Serb leader Radovan) Karadzic."

Bay Colonel Qadhafi, famous for his radical and confrontational stands, called Muslim nations "dogs" for following Western policy on Yugoslavia.

"The Muslim states are demagogues and are ignorant of the ABC of the issue. They are following the position of their (Western) masters like dogs," he told a group of reporters.

"The issue is not religious between Muslims and Orthodox (Christians)... it is a political fight between leaders. Foreign intervention will not solve the Bosnian-Herzegovina crisis," he said, near the city of Sirte, 450 kilometres south of the capital Tripoli.

Many Arab and Muslim countries have called for stronger action by United Nations forces to help beleaguered Muslims in Bosnia resist Serb onslaught, and a lifting of the arms embargo on the Muslim-led government in Sarajevo.

Col. Qadhafi called on Mr. Karadzic not to deport Muslims from seizing land in the Bosnian Republic.

"It is not acceptable that Serbs deport Muslims from lands they conquer. The inhabitants of this land are all Slavs, including Muslims... They are all Yugoslavs."

He warned Mr. Karadzic of continuing what he called "religious cleansing" because this would create a historical case for Muslims similar that of the Jews after World War II.

Libya has been suffering isolation since the U.N. Security Council imposed sanctions on it in April 1992 for its alleged involvement in the bombing of a Pan Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland in 1989.

The Libyan leader, in power since 1969, said the European countries, the United States and Russia, were also against the establishment of an Islamic state in Bosnia — but they were mainly seeking their own interests.

"Germany wants to rebuild the Fourth Reich at the expense of Yugoslavia... and the United States wants to be present in the area to prevent Russia from being there alone... and Russia wants to defend the Slav race."

He added that Europe "feared the development of armed militias and civil wars because Europe is undermined by the World War II arrangements when boundaries were set arbitrarily."

"The Islamic countries, the United States, Russia all these parties are acting in a hesitant and fearful manner which has resulted in the growing horror of this drama," he said.

European Islamic circles as well as NATO and other powers were guilty of "cowardism."

"The parties involved in the Bosnian conflict are hypocritical and colonialist powers which have personal aims. They are to blame for the killings of the Muslims who they pretend they are defending."

The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) Saturday declared the U.N.-imposed arms embargo on Bosnia invalid and said member countries were free to supply arms to Bosnian Muslims.

Meanwhile the French, British and U.S. governments have warned Bosnia Serbs that further attacks on U.N. safe areas in Bosnia "cannot be tolerated" and would lead to massive air strikes by the Western allies.

But Col. Qadhafi said current efforts to solve the crisis would "achieve nothing and only help to prolong the conflict and increase the bloodshed and the number of innocent victims."

But he praised French President Jacques Chirac for his stand for urging tougher international action or a withdrawal of the U.N. peacekeeping troops after the Serbs seized the Muslim eastern enclave of Srebrenica.

Mr. Chirac was a "man true to his word and his position is sensible."

"France wants to alert the international community so that it does not participate in and give its agreement to something irrational" which he said was the reverse of what the United States was trying to do.

"I think these symptoms were due to stress and the fact that the troops were fighting in a war zone which was not very familiar to them," he said.

Troops were trained to fight in any zone but there were areas which are more alien than others, "so I feel that most of their symptoms were really due to stress, rather than some sort of infection," he said.

A U.S.-led coalition of Western, Arab and Asian armies ended a seven-month Iraqi occupation of Kuwait in the six-week 1991 Gulf War.



KING RECEIVES POPOULIAS: His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Greek Foreign Minister Kostas Karamanlis and his accompanying delegation and reviewed with them Jordanian-Greek relations. The Greek Minister, who ended his two-day visit to Jordan Monday, told King Hussein that his government was looking forward to a meeting by the joint Jordanian-Greek Committee which is due in October to discuss topics of interest to the two countries and to promote cooperation in economic, cultural and touristic fields. The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan. Later the Greek minister left Jordan and was seen off by Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti who said in a statement at the airport that the talks with the minister resulted in agreement over the need to end the ordeal of the Bosnian people through concerted international efforts (see related story on page 3) (Petra photo)

Argentina to sell Syria reactor only after peace

TEL AVIV (R) — Argentine Foreign Minister Guido Di Tella said Sunday his country would sell a nuclear reactor to Syria only after Damascus signed a peace treaty with Israel.

"(The sale) is something that will be done easily when peace comes and will be one of the first consequences of the peace," Mr. Di Tella told reporters after meeting his Israeli counterpart Shimon Peres while on a visit to Israel.

Asked if his country would go through with the sale only if the countries reach a peace deal, Mr. Di Tella said: "Yes. If and only if."

Israel fears that neighbouring Syria — a long-time foe and now a partner in slow-moving peace talks — would develop a nuclear weapons programme that threatens the Jewish state.

Mr. Peres said Israel and Argentina were in agreement on the issue of the reactor which Syria wants for medical purposes.

"This cooperation does not include anything that will cast a shadow on relations between Argentina and ourselves, and we have reached a full agreement on it," Mr. Peres said.

The two men also discussed Argentina's investigation into last year's car bombing of a Jewish centre in Buenos Aires that killed 86 people.

"I think both the Argentinean government as well as us are deeply interested to bring an end to this story and get all of the people who are responsible for these terror acts," Mr. Peres said.

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Mr. Peres said Israel and Argentina were in agreement on the issue of the reactor which Syria wants for medical purposes.

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Unusual monsoon lashes arid Gulf states

DUBAI (R) — Rainstorms lashed Arab states of the lower Gulf for a third day Monday during what is normally a scorchingly dry summer season.

The unseasonal rains caused chaos on the roads, flooded parched reservoirs and flooded dry wadis — river beds that normally swell only in winter.

"Actually nothing like this has happened in 65 years of records," said meteorologist Dave McNaughton.

He said a monsoon in India and unusual heat in Europe had caused a low pressure trough that brought the rains, mostly to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman and also in Iran across the Gulf.

The monsoon does not normally penetrate the Arabian peninsula beyond a coastal strip in southern Dhofar province of Oman.

Oman residents said reservoirs built to counter a three-year drought were near bursting.

At least one school closed Sunday after up to 52 millimetres (two inches) of rain fell in parts of the country, the highest since the 1970s.

Mr. McNaughton said the UAE recorded in the past three days the most rainfall it has had since records began.

"It has caused chaos," he told Reuters.

Smaller vessels remained in port Monday after UAE Coast Guards warned fishermen not to take to the seas.

But radio stations and newspapers described it as a "gift from God" for the parched lands of the region.

In Iran, heavy rains and floods in 95 villages hit some 317 families, killed livestock, washed away bridges, destroyed some 7,000 hectares (17,300 acres) of farms and damaged Iran-Turkey Railway Lines, the Iranian news agency said Sunday.

Mr. McNaughton said he expected the rains to subside over the next 24 hours.

Residents fear battle for Kismayo, prepare to flee

MOGADISHU (AFP) — Residents of the southern Somali port of Kismayo prepared to flee Monday in the face of an imminent battle for control of the city, relief workers in the area said.

In South Mogadishu, meanwhile, fighting between clan militias in the disputed enclave of Bermuda Sunday left two dead and five wounded.

One stray mortar round from that fighting landed just outside the old Ministry of Foreign Affairs building where 68 "ministers" of the "government" of warlord Mohammed Farah Aidede were being installed following his election by supporters last month as "interim president" of Somalia.

North Mogadishu warlord Ali Mahdi Mohammed said on his radio station Monday that General Aidede had sent 25 armed pickup trucks known as "technical" south to attack Kismayo under the command of Colonel Ahmad Omar Jess, who holds the surrounding countryside and is Gen. Aidede's "defence minister."

Residents of Kismayo, under the control of General Mohammed Said Hirsi "Morgan," said Gen. Aidede's "Green Line" dividing the city.

Tension in Mogadishu remains high, with the militia-men of Gen. Aidede's "national army" continuing to occupy strong-points along the "Green Line" dividing the city.

With control of Somalia disputed by warlords since the overthrow of dictator Mohammed Siad Barre in 1991, no country has recognised Gen. Aidede's "government," but the ceremony was attended by the only foreign diplomat resident in Somalia, Sudanese Charge d'Affaires Hassan Ali Hassan.

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Turkey pushes for long-term dream

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkey is engaged with Russia in a struggle for a short-term oil pipeline from the former Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan that would provide it with little economic benefit.

But it could guarantee Ankara future passage to vast amounts of oil to the West, and to many the fight in the international oil world is reminiscent of historic rivalry.

"This is a return to the 19th century with Persians, Russians, and Turks who had a vision of Central Asia," said a Western diplomat who requested anonymity.

"For Turkey and Russia this is a zero-sum game."

"If Turkey gets it (the pipeline) then Russia loses, and vice versa. Neither side is really interested in multiple routes."

Azerbaijan and the Central Asian republics once again became attractive to Ankara and Tehran after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

But Iran was pushed out of the Azeri oil game

when the United States blocked its projected ownership of shares in an oil consortium, formed mainly of American companies.

The consortium signed last September a \$7.4 billion deal for Azerbaijan's Caspian Sea oil, estimated at 600 million tonnes.

It includes among others America's Amoco, British Petroleum, the Turkish Petroleum Corporation (TP), Lukoil of Russia, and the Azeri government.

With a view into the next century, Turkey and Russia are competing for a short-term routing that would transport four million tonnes of early Azeri oil by the end of 1996.

Their final target is a long-term pipeline which experts say would handle 100 million tonnes in the year 2010.

If Turkey's dream comes true, the early-oil will go through existing pipelines to a Georgian port on the Black Sea.

"We are looking at it as a non-profit deal now with an eye to the future," said

Neelam Pami, a senior negotiator with Western oil companies for TP.

"Our motivation is to prevent passage through Russia, otherwise it (Moscow) could get the final pipeline," Mr. Pami said.

To that end, Turkey says it is ready to buy most of the oil, to lower its transit fees and to help meet the \$250 million price tag.

In return, it would wrench from Russia a \$450 million proposed route up to its Black Sea port of Novorossiysk that could develop into the final pipeline and for which Moscow has pledged to pay \$400 million.

The early-oil route choice, to be made in October, lies with the consortium.

But even there, "there are different companies with different thinking and you cannot exclude politics from their calculation," said Emre Gonensay, a senior aide to Prime Minister Tansu Ciller.

For the distant future, Turkey offers a pipeline running through Armenia

or Georgia and ending near its Mediterranean port of Iskenderun.

Ankara has raised environmental objections to the Novorossiysk routing, insisting that supertankers would endanger the Bosphorus narrow straits.

But it says the final routing could be shared with Russia, an idea that the United States backs and that Moscow has initially welcomed.

For its part, Russia has recently claimed that the legal status of the Caspian Sea is not clear, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan are on the Caspian Sea.

Western and Turkish sources close to the consortium say Russia is stalling on the early-oil deal, and is putting heavy pressure on its former states to abide by its will.

"Russia wants to prolong this deal-making as long as possible," the Western sources said.

"At stake is the economic independence of small states and the projection of Russian power."

200 said killed in north Iraq Kurdish clashes

Queen chairs closing session of leadership academy advisory panel

Speaking during a ceremony honouring veteran company workers, 'Mr. Halwani' paid tribute to the workers' efforts noting that in the past five years the company's production increased 100 per cent and exports increased by 300 per cent.

French Socialists call for referendum on nuclear test

PARIS (AFP) — France's opposition Socialist Party Monday called for a referendum on President Jacques Chirac's decision to resume nuclear testing in the South Pacific.

Party official Gerard Fuchs urged Mr. Chirac either "to call off his decision to resume nuclear tests" or to organise a referendum in view of "the constantly growing international alarm" over the decision.

Mr. Fuchs, who is the party's national secretary for international relations, said the tests should be called off "for the good of the country."

Mr. Fuchs went on "there is no justification in terms of the security of France for the resumption of nuclear tests and visibly, they are going to totally isolate our country both on the international scene and in Europe."

On Sunday an opinion poll said Mr. Chirac had plunged 10 points in his popularity rating largely because of his

decision to resume the tests.

Mr. Chirac dropped to 44 per cent compared with 54 per cent a month ago, a poll by IFOP institute for the newspaper Journal du Dimanche said, with most respondents saying nuclear tests were the reason for their change of mind.

Mr. Chirac, who was sworn in as president on May 17, already dropped five points in June.

The total 15-point drop in a little more than two months was unprecedented in the history of France's Fifth Republic, founded in 1958, Jean-Luc Parodi, of the National Foundation for Political Sciences and an advisor to IFOP, wrote in the newspaper.

In Sydney, more than 175 international legal and environmental experts have signed a memorandum challenging the legality of the proposed French nuclear tests, a Melbourne academic said Monday.

As the international future continues over the French decision to conduct eight tests at Mururoa Atoll, a senior Canberra minister also backed a proposal to send consular officials to look after Australians taking part in the flotilla of protests boats bound for the atoll.

The move followed New Zealand's announcement that it will send an unnamed research ship to the test site.

Melbourne University lecturer Donald Anton told reporters he hoped the memorandum he has organised and an accompanying letter would persuade President Chirac to reconsider the resumption of nuclear testing.

Mr. Anton believes the resumption of nuclear testing contravenes international law.

Legal experts, he said, had concluded that France had well-established obligations under international law to prevent harm to the marine environment, to the environ-

ment of other countries and to human health.

Its treaty obligations required it at least to conduct an independent and public environmental impact assessment before testing could legally resume.

The documents will be mailed to Mr. Chirac on Aug. 6, the 50th anniversary of the atomic bombing of the Japanese city of Hiroshima.

"If the assessment demonstrates a likelihood of serious damage, France would be legally obliged to cancel the planned tests," Mr. Anton said.

Signatories to the memorandum included well-known academics from Harvard, Yale and Oxford as well as academic staff from Australian universities.

Mr. Anton hoped the eminence of some of the academic would persuade governments to bring claims against France in the International Court of Justice, he said.

New Russian intelligence chief named

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin appointed a former KGB officer and loyal ally as head of Russia's counter-intelligence service Monday in what his spokesman said could herald a shake-up of state security.

Presidential spokesman Sergei Medvedev said Colonel-General Mikhail Barsukov, until now responsible for guarding Kremlin leaders other than the president, would replace Sergei Stepashin as director of the Federal Security Service (FSB).

Mr. Medvedev hinted that further changes were on the way at the FSB, the successor of the feared KGB security police dissolved in 1991.

"The naming of Barsukov as director of the State Security Service does not exclude personnel changes connected with the reorganisation of all security service systems," Mr. Medvedev told Echo Moskvy radio station in an interview. He gave no details.

The appointment of Gen. Barsukov, 47, was part of a reshuffle in which Mr. Stepashin and the interior and nationalities ministers were sacked on June 30 for mishandling a hostage-taking raid by Chechen gunmen on

the southern town of Budennovsk last month.

Mr. Yeltsin, who left hospital Monday after a minor heart attack two weeks ago, quickly chose new nationalities and interior ministers.

But he took longer to name Gen. Barsukov, indicating the sensitivity and importance of the FSB.

A leaked report of his appointment, carried by Interfax News Agency last week, was officially denied until Mr. Medvedev formally announced Mr. Yeltsin's decision Monday.

Although the FSB has fewer powers than the KGB enjoyed and its role outside Russia is limited, its intelligence-gathering role inside the country could make it particularly important in the run-up to a parliamentary election on Dec. 17.

A trained ex-KGB operative, Gen. Barsukov has been working from the Kremlin since 1991 and has carried the title of Moscow Kremlin commandant as head of the GVO security branch looking after the safety of Kremlin leaders.

By the nature of his job, Gen. Barsukov is linked to the shadowy General Alexander Korzhakov, Mr. Yeltsin's bodyguard, who is wide-

ly thought to be a powerful influence over the president.

Gen. Barsukov has not previously worked at the FSB. But Mr. Yeltsin also appointed an experienced FSB officer, Viktor Zorin, first deputy director of the service, prompting speculation that Gen. Barsukov may have a mainly political role.

"An optimistic view is that Barsukov will be expected to ensure operations are loyal to the president and that Zorin will take charge of professional matters," Alexander Kononov, an independent military analyst, told Reuters.

"But I think such a move would collapse in a month. I think it is a negative appointment when a bodyguard becomes head of the intelligence service."

Several parliamentarians who spoke to Reuters at the State Duma, lower house, were also wary of the appointment.

"I am not delighted; it is unlikely to be seen as progress compared to Stepashin because he had his own concept of reform in the service, even though he never managed to carry it out," said Sergei Yushenkov, head of the Duma's Defence Committee.

Yeltsin, 'Feeling well', leaves hospital

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin left hospital "feeling well" Monday after a two-week stay for a heart problem and moved to a sanatorium outside Moscow.

"Russian President Boris Yeltsin finished his course of treatment in the Moscow Central Clinic Hospital today and has been discharged," the president's press secretary, Sergei Medvedev, told ITAR-TASS news agency.

Mr. Medvedev said Mr. Yeltsin, 64, had gone to the Barvikha Sanatorium, west of the capital, but he did not say how long the president would remain there.

Citing doctors, Mr. Medvedev said: "The president is feeling well."

He did not say when Mr. Yeltsin, who has been working from hospital, would be back at his desk in the Kremlin.

Mr. Yeltsin was admitted to hospital on July 11 with an ischaemic heart condition — a blood supply problem — and his condition renewed speculation about his fitness to rule the country of about 150 million people.

The president, who took office in 1991 and faces re-election next June, has recently looked puffy-eyed and walked stiffly in public.

Only a television appearance last Tuesday — his first since he suffered what he called a minor heart attack — quelled rumours that his condition was worse than his aides suggested in daily updates of his health.

In the television interview, Mr. Yeltsin was slightly breathless but moved and spoke freely. He showed none of the previous puffiness or stiff gait.

"I was taken to hospital and so I felt bad, but the doctors got to work quite energetically and after two days it (the attack) had subsided," said Mr. Yeltsin.



French President Jacques Chirac (left) and his Senegalese counterpart Abdou Diouf wave at the crowd gathered on the Independence Plaza in Dakar on their way to the presidential palace after laying a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Mr. Chirac ended in Senegal his five-day African tour (AFP photo)

Chirac offers Africans new debt plan

DAKAR (R) — Jacques Chirac left francophone Africa after a whirlwind first tour as French president, praising a spirit of realism among the many leaders he talked to and offering hope of a solution to some of their debt problems.

Mr. Chirac, who met Morocco's King Hassan and 14 other leaders during his four-nation sweep through the region, wrapped up his tour late Sunday saying France would study the feasibility of converting debt into investment.

"I leave somewhat confirmed in my convictions, optimistic about the future of Africa and definitely against the current spirit of Afro-pessimism," he told a news conference before leaving Senegal for home.

Praising the attitude of the leaders he met, he described them as "determined, conscious of both the realities and the demands that this reality imposes on the conduct of public life, relatively optimistic for the future, determined to fight for development and happy to know they can count on France to fight

at their sides."

Mr. Chirac said that he, King Hassan and those African leaders he met for a series of bilateral talks in Ivory Coast, Gabon and Senegal had spent a long time discussing the problem of debt.

"Rather than cancelling debt, I wonder if we should be looking at turning debt into investment," he said, directing his comments at medium-income countries north and south of the Sahara and Morocco in particular.

African leaders say the heavy burden of servicing their countries' foreign debt, run up during the heady years that followed independence, hampers their efforts to revive their economies.

Mr. Chirac said his administration would study the concept of channeling debt repayment into investment but he stressed that it was a "relatively new idea" and methods of application still had to be worked out.

"Naturally it is necessary to ensure debts are serviced... but I believe that we have reached a stage where these procedures alone are not enough," he said.

On the diplomatic front, Mr. Chirac played down a decision by Mali's president, Alpha Oumar Konare, not to come to Dakar to meet him.

Diplomats said Mr. Konare apparently felt offended by what he took to be a summons from Mr. Chirac to join him for talks.

"The Mali president did what he believed he had to do for reasons that were his own. One can regret that decision but it's certainly not up to me to judge it," Mr. Chirac said.

But Mr. Chirac said he and all the other leaders he met were concerned about developments in regional giant Nigeria, which has come under sustained international pressure over the secret trail of alleged coup plotters including former head of state Olusegun Obasanjo.

Responding to a question, he said Nigeria's military rulers showed no sign of moving towards the rule of law and democracy.

"I would ask you to note that I did not go to Nigeria. I am worried by what is happening in Nigeria as are all the other heads of state I met," he added.

Endangered Russian scientists on display in zoo

MOSCOW (AP) — Their pay is peanuts and their jobs are on the endangered list. So three young science workers dramatised the plight of Russian scientists by spending Sunday in a cage at the Moscow Zoo.

"Sitting in a cage is a symbolic gesture. Many of our colleagues have already thrown up their hands in despair," said Yevgeny Spiridonov, a lanky 27-year-old meteorologist standing behind the iron bars of an orangutan cage, dressed neatly and wearing a tie.

"There are many doctors of science who have started to drink themselves to death because whole schools and institutions have been shut down."

Mr. Spiridonov and his cage-mates, computer engineer Vladimir Perlin and space technician Viktor Pekin, say their 11-hour "humanitarian action" isn't a protest — it's an affirmation of science meant to encourage other struggling young scientists.

"We want to show that we're alive, and we're working in science even though our institution closed," Mr. Spiridonov said.

"You have to do what you love, and real science can always support its own. Each person in the world is in their own cage, after all."

Scientists, among the best paid and most pampered Soviet workers, have seen their fortunes nose-dive the 1991 Soviet collapse. Their monthly state wages now average less than the national average, which is a mere 495,000 rubles, or about \$110, and are often months in arrears.

Many scientific workers say they are forced to look for work abroad, and fewer young people are entering the field.

The threesome in the cage worked together at the Ministry of Economics until recently, when their jobs were eliminated in a series of cutbacks. They have managed to find work in school and private businesses, but miss the

collegiality of their old jobs.

A sign outside the cage declared the exhibit: "Rational man. Homo sapiens. Subspecies: scientific workers."

The scientists were fed four meals of cereal, fruit and vegetables, and sat at chairs around a table with bottles of mineral water, bowls, books and notepads. Most of the time, they worked quietly, rarely looking up at the crowd of a few dozen spectators.

A male orangutan in the next cell sat as close as he could, with his orange arms resting on the bars. Zoo officials said the ape, who considers the men's cell one of his own, spent much of the day sniffing in that direction to find out what was going on.

Zoo spokeswoman Natalya Istratova said the zoo liked the project because it wants to know what it is like being caged. She said she also approves of the message that "freedom is inside us, people and animals."

The public, however, seemed to find it much more interesting to watch apes than humans, she noted. Zoo-goers were shocked to find the scientists and many laughed, but few lingered long to watch them sit and read.

Many said they were confused by the exhibit.

"I guess they want to put themselves on the level of animals — it's hard to imagine," said Lyuda Guseinova, who was visiting with her 8-year-old daughter, Saïda, from Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan.

"I think they're trying to say people are part of nature and have no right to play God," ventured Denis Ilchuk, a 21-year-old soldier.

"This experiment shows we're the same as our neighbours in the cages."

"No," said his mother, Margarita, who was visiting from Siberia. "They're trying to raise concern for people, who have a lot of problems now. We all have to protect each other."

Brando heads to Australia to shoot film

SYDNEY (R) — Hollywood movie legend Marlon Brando will be in Australia in September to shoot a horror-fantasy film in which he will play a mad scientist, the film's publicist said Monday.

The film, a remake of author H.G. Wells's short story The Island Of Dr. Moreau, will be shot on Australia's tropical northeast coast, a spokeswoman for Dennis Davidson Associates (DDA) said.

"The only information we have is that he will be here for two weeks in September," the spokeswoman told Reuters. The film centres on a group of soldiers who are shipwrecked on a Pacific island where Brando, as the mad Dr. Moreau, carries out experiments on mutations between humans and animals.

The film will be the third version of the classic horror story. The first, titled The Island Of Lost Souls, was released in 1933 and starred English actor Charles Laughton as the demented doctor. The second, which reverted to Wells's title, was released in 1977 and starred Burt Lancaster as Dr. Moreau. The movie is being produced by New Line Cinema of the United States at a cost of between \$30 million and \$40 million, local media reports have said. Brando is currently shooting the film Divine Rapture in Ireland, a country that moved him to contemplate taking up Irish citizenship. His great-grandfather was born in Dublin.

Long-distance trip costs cabbie money, trust and sleep

NEW YORK (AP) — The police report said the cabbie drove a man all the way to Michigan and back, only to be given a bad check for the \$2,000 fare. Cab driver Jamshed Butt, a native of Lahore, Pakistan, says the saga started Tuesday at John F. Kennedy International Airport, when a well-dressed man fresh from Bombay, India, hailed his cab. The man, Eapen Kollai, said he wanted to go to Troy, Michigan, 1,207 kilometres away, to retrieve a checkbook from his wife. Kollai promised to pay the \$2,000 fare when they arrived. So why did the cab driver believe him? "He was from India," Butt, 31, said Saturday, "from my neighbourhood country." When they got to Troy, they found Kollai's ex-wife. "She had the checkbook," said Troy Police Officer Robert Carter. She turned it over but refused to speak to her ex-husband. Kollai wrote the cabbie a check for \$2,000. But when they went to the bank, they found Kollai's account held only \$7.17. So Butt drove Kollai back to New York. He didn't want to come back to Michigan for court. Round-trip, Butt lost \$630 (including \$250 for two speeding tickets), as well as some 32 hours of sleep. On Saturday, he was sick in bed.

Liz Hurley 'to marry' Grant

LONDON (AFP) — British model Liz Hurley plans to marry Hugh Grant, despite his world-famous misdeed with a Hollywood prostitute, the Daily Express quoted a close friend as saying Monday. Grant, who shot to fame last year for his part in the block-busting Four Weddings and A Funeral, admitted "lewd conduct" after police caught him with his trousers down. The "faux pas" brought his long-standing relationship with Hurley to the crossroads, Henry Brocklehurst told the Daily Express. "They have either got to get married, which I think they will, or split up, which I doubt will happen," Brocklehurst was quoted as saying.

'Phat' is where it's at

CLEVELAND (R) — If someone calls you fat, ask how it's spelled before taking offence. If it's "phat," it's a compliment, experts on new words say. "Phat is a very positive term originally from black English," said Jesse Sheldower, an editor of Random House Dictionaries. In use since 1963, the word can be used to describe a person ("she's really phat") or a situation ("How's it going? phat"). A public forum on neology, the study of new words, drew some 125 teachers, poets, reporters and other word lovers to the campus of Case Western Reserve University.



Two crewmen of a 70-tonne oil barge sunk by typhoon Faye, which smashed into the southern South Korean coast struggle to reach the dock of the southern port city of Pusan (AFP photo)

Typhoon leaves 41 people dead or missing in South Korea

SEOUL (R) — At least 16 people were killed and 25 missing feared dead after typhoon Faye lashed South Korea, the government anti-disaster agency said Monday.

Maritime police said they were trying to contain an oil spill from the Cyprus-registered oil tanker Sea Prince which ran aground in the typhoon Sunday.

The 144,567-tonne Sea Prince, its stern partly submerged, was loaded with 610,000 barrels of crude oil, a police spokesman said.

He said 19 of the tanker's 20 crew, all South Koreans, escaped to the nearby island of Yondo, but chief engineer Song Chan-Kun was missing.

"We have sent 14 ships, including six with slick-retrieving equipment, to the site but dense fog in the area is hampering the operation," the spokesman said.

Maritime Police said they believed the Sea Prince was

spilling crude oil but officials of Hoya Tanker Co. its owner, said they were not sure if the spill had stopped.

One Hoya official said the Sea Prince had unloaded 1.32 million barrels of Saudi crude for a South Korean refinery at the port of Yosu and was trying to move to a safer port when it was hit by the typhoon.

"We know Sea Prince had spilled oil but we have difficulty in finding out if it is still spilling because of dense fog and high seas," he said.

"We have no idea if the oil spill was from its fuel oil tank or its cargo tank," he added.

Anti-disaster agency officials said scores of ships sank and a railway along the coastline near Yosu was flooded by high waves.

Police said a van carrying 17 people were swept into the sea at the southern port of Yosu Sunday. Only the driver, a man, managed to swim

to safety.

"All the passengers were women. Nine bodies have been retrieved from the sea, with the others still missing," a police officer said.

The Meteorological Agency said Faye had moved away from the Korean peninsula into the Sea of Japan, meaning that most of the country had avoided the worst of the typhoon.

Seven people were thrown into the sea when high waves capsized a barge and a tug boat in Pusan, the country's largest port, an anti-disaster official said.

One of the seven crew was saved but a maritime policeman was killed during rescue efforts.

One man was electrocuted while trying to repair power lines and another was crushed to death by a falling tree. Most of those who died, however, were drowned.



Rescue workers battle through typhoon Faye had broken from their moorings under the onslaught of the typhoon (AFP photo)

Indian parties prepare campaign strategy

NEW DELHI (R) — Election fever is in the air in the world's largest democracy as Indian parties take first steps to prepare campaign strategies, even though a poll date has still to be set.

The Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), convinced it can win power in general elections due within a year, is turning up the volume of its rhetoric, galvanising the faction-ridden ruling Congress Party into action.

"There should be no let up in our resolution and determination towards our goal, namely, capturing power at the centre," BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani told a convention of party legislators in New Delhi Sunday.

It was necessary to "create a wave in favour of the BJP and all preparations should be geared towards this effort," Mr. Advani said.

The Congress Party, dominated by internal wrangling for the past several months after a series of regional election defeats, appears finally to have got the message that it too has to begin preparing for the elections.

The long-awaited Congress "brainstorming" session, the prelude to its electoral preparations, was due to begin outside New Delhi Tuesday.

The weeklong meeting was to bring top party and government officials together with some 250 middle-level

Congress leaders from around India to discuss electoral strategy.

Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, who has to call elections before June 1996, has said he plans to hold them some months early to avoid the summer heat. But officials have since suggested he may hold off as long as he can to allow the effects of economic reform to work their way through.

The issue of Mr. Rao's four years of economic reforms, which have reduced tariff barriers and opened India up to foreign investment, are likely to figure prominently at the "brainstorming" meeting in the resort of Surajkund.

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World News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, JULY 25, 1995, 5



Rescue team members evacuate the body of a victim after tonnes of mud and rock crashed down a mountainside in

Fredonia, some 200 km from Bogota, in northeastern Colombia (AFP photo)

Colombia landslide death toll rises to 19

BOGOTA (R) — Rescue workers have pulled a total of 19 bodies, including those of two babies, from the debris of homes buried by a landslide which hit a Colombian coffee town and 13 other people are still missing, a local disaster prevention official said Sunday.

The landslide struck a poor

area of Fredonia, about 200 kilometres northwest of Bogota, Saturday afternoon, engulfing houses in a tide of mud, rocks and earth as families sat inside watching a televised sporting event.

"At this time we have a report of 19 dead and 13 missing," disaster official Patricia Alvarez said. "Res-

cue operations are continuing." She estimated material losses from the disaster at around 7 billion pesos (\$8 million).

Mr. Alvarez said that among the dead were two month-old babies and five other children. Rescue teams resumed their hunt for other

victims early Monday. Fredonia Mayor Gabriel Ignacio Munoz said police and civil defence teams had cordoned off the area of the town buried under a 200-metre wide swathe of mud but that desperate relatives had tried to break through the barriers to hunt for their loved ones.

Forest fire means more smog, floods for Athens

ATHENS (R) — A huge fire that destroyed precious forests around Athens caused immense environmental damage and will mean more pollution and floods for the Greek capital, officials said Monday.

Estimating the disaster after the three-day fire was brought under control early Monday, they said about 10,000 acres (4,047 hectares) of pine and fir-tree forest had been destroyed.

"We now fear floods," Deputy Environment and Public Works Minister Costas Giannas told an Athens daily newspaper.

"The ministry will study anti-flooding measures and areas in need will be supported before the first rains begin."

The razing of forests for residential development has

been blamed for the heavy winter floods that often hit Athens, a sprawling city of almost four million people.

Air pollution, another of the capital's long-standing problems, is also expected to worsen after the fire.

"These forests renewed the air of the city and dispersed the pollution," forestry expert Nikos Hlikas told the *Ethnos* daily. "Their destruction will surely have an impact and it will take 20 to 40 years to get them back."

Athens is one of Europe's most polluted cities and the government has taken measures to limit car traffic to fight smog. In the summer of 1988, hundreds of people died as a result of heavy air pollution coupled with a heatwave.

Authorities suspect arson-

ists started the fire to make way for development but the government vowed to replant the burnt area and bulldozer any illegal construction.

The blaze started early Friday near Mount Penteli overlooking Athens which is dotted with luxurious villas, summer homes and children's summer camps.

Fire fighters said at least 30 houses and other buildings were destroyed but residents said a minimum of 80 houses had been gutted by the blaze.

The region northeast of the city has been declared a disaster area. Thousands of people were evacuated from houses, hospitals and summer camps and police reported 20 people injured, none seriously.

Military units were drafted to help thousands of firemen

and local residents fight the fire. Gale-force winds and smoke kept water-dropping aircraft grounded for much of Saturday and fire engines could not reach many rugged areas.

Meanwhile another fire was spreading rapidly Monday morning in the northern Peloponnese. It started Saturday night near Longos, in the region of Aigion, an area which was hit by earthquakes in June, killing 26 people, including 10 French tourists.

Local authorities said it was burning over an area of 25 kilometres but only pine forest and scrubland were at risk for the moment.

Only a deserted old village, Hroussa, could perish if the fire keeps burning fiercely, firefighters said.

India rules out militant-for-tourist swap

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The Indian government Monday ruled out releasing imprisoned Muslim militants to win the freedom of five Western tourists kidnapped by Muslim separatist guerrillas in Kashmir.

"There is no question of releasing any militant (in exchange for the five abducted tourists)," Home Secretary K. Padmanabhaiah told reporters here in the government's first outright rejection of a militant-for-tourist swap.

He said the authorities were attempting to secure the release of the tourists held by the separatist group Al Faran, but the position of the government on an exchange is "very clear."

Mr. Padmanabhaiah denied reports that several of the 21 jailed Muslim militants whose release is being demanded by Al Faran had been shifted to the northern state from prisons elsewhere prior to an exchange.

"These reports are totally wrong and there is no such move," he said.

The home secretary also said a claim by Al Faran that two hostages had been injured in a gunbattle with In-

dian troops last week was a fabrication.

Al Faran has alleged that two of the hostages were injured in a gunbattle when troops stormed their hideout on July 20. On Sunday, Al Faran said one of the hostages was in "critical condition."

But Mr. Padmanabhaiah said the army was avoiding moves which might endanger the captives and "a military operation was never considered."

He said the government had received a report that one of the hostages may have been injured in a scuffle with his captors while they were being shifted between hideouts.

Al Faran has threatened to kill the captives if the 21 Muslim militants are not released. The group set July 17 as a deadline for their release but is not believed to have carried out its threat to kill the hostages.

Mr. Padmanabhaiah also renewed an appeal to the kidnappers to release Britons Paul Wells Hasert and Keith Mangan, American Donald Hutchings, German Dirk Hasert and Norwegian Hans

Ostro.

Mr. Wells, Mr. Mangan, Mr. Hutchings and another "can, John Childs, were kidnapped near the mountain resort of Pahalgam on July 4. Mr. Childs escaped from his captors on July 8, the same day Mr. Hasert and Mr. Ostro were seized in separate incidents.

Asked whether Pakistan, which India accuses of fueling the insurgency in Kashmir, was involved in the kidnapping, the home secretary said none of the 15 to 16 kidnappers spoke the Kashmiri language.

They spoke Pushtu, a language widely spoken in Afghanistan and provinces of Pakistan, and "it is clear at whose instance they have done this," he said.

The home secretary's comments followed reports that the Indian authorities have reestablished contact with the captors.

Officials in Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar said a representative of Al Faran spoke by telephone Sunday with the government's chief negotiator.

Details of the first conversation in several days be-

tween Al Faran and retired Lieutenant General D.D. Saklani were not released.

Home Minister Shankar Chavan is scheduled to visit Srinagar Wednesday but a senior official said his trip was not connected to the hostage crisis.

Speaking to reporters here Monday, Mr. Chavan said the government planned to hold elections in Kashmir within six months and the kidnappings would not affect its plans to restore democracy to the strife-torn state.

"The government's stand on elections in Kashmir is very clear," he said. "We want to hold the (state assembly) polls there within six months."

Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, has been under the direct rule of New Delhi since the Muslim insurgency, which has left more than 12,000 people dead began in 1989.

Indian officials believe that Al Faran, may actually be the Harkat-ul-Ansar, a hardline pro-Pakistan group which abducted two Britons in Pahalgam last year and released them after 17 days.

Karachi talks focus on opposition peace plan

KARACHI (AFP) — A four-point plan tabled by Karachi's powerful opposition party was the focus of discussions when peace talks between the government and the group resumed here late Monday, officials said.

Meanwhile, two people were killed ahead of talks Monday while four were shot dead Sunday, most in sniper shooting in this city awash with illegal arms.

The plan by the Mohajir Qaumi Movement (MQM) was presented at the fourth round of talks held in Islamabad Thursday to politically resolve the crisis in Karachi where more than 2,000 people have died in ethnic and political violence since January last year.

MQM chief negotiator Ajmal Dehvi, refused to give details of the plan, pending a government response.

However, sources close to the MQM negotiating team

told AFP that the proposals relate to the party's demand for an end to siege and search operations by police and paramilitary troops in Karachi.

Violence escalated last week when some 40 people were killed in three days of fighting.

The MQM has also proposed that after suspending security operations, its self-exiled leader Altaf Hussain, who resides in London, be allowed to address a public rally near the party's headquarters here by telephone, the sources said.

The MQM has proposed that an official ban imposed last month on cellular telephones and pagers be lifted, even on a temporary basis, in order "to tell the party die-

hards and supporters that the security forces had stopped their activities," said the source on condition of anonymity.

Officials said the action to

indefinitely suspend paging and mobile telephone services in Karachi was taken to break the communication system of the militants.

The MQM represents Mohajir migrants from Urdu-speaking regions of India who settled here after the 1947 partition of the subcontinent. The community numerically dominates southern Sindh province's urban centres.

The government blames the party for much of the violence in Pakistan's commercial hub of Karachi, home to some 12 million people alleged sense of deprivation among the Mohajir community which has a relatively better literacy rate compared to the region's native Sindhis.

It demands the government abolish the job quota for Mohajirs and recruit people on merit.

Both sides initiated the dialogue on July 11 to restore

peace in the strife-torn city.

Mr. Dehvi said the attitude of the government side, led by Law Minister Nahi Dad Khan, was "positive."

"Ceasefire and peace, is our one-point agenda," Zubair Akram, a member of the government team said.

The government blames the party for much of the violence in Pakistan's commercial hub of Karachi, home to some 12 million people of different origin and ethnic background.

A bomb blew up a bus in the central Pakistani province of Punjab near the Indian border, killing three people and injuring 25, police said Monday.

They said the bomb exploded Sunday near Kasur town when the bus was travelling east to the nearby town of Kot Racha Kishan.

There was no information about who set off the bomb.

Japan premier to soldier on after senate election setback

TOKYO (Agencies) — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama Monday put a brave face on government setbacks in upper-house elections, saying his coalition would stay together and there were no plans to call a snap general election.

Speaking the day after his Socialist Party was routed in the House of Councillors' election, Mr. Murayama only left open the possibility of a cabinet reshuffle as a way to satisfy voter dissatisfaction with his three-party coalition.

"I think we just scraped through," he said. "I will continue as head of a government."

Mr. Murayama's Socialists won only 16 of the 126 seats at stake, losing almost two-thirds of the seats they were defending in the election.

His coalition of Socialists, the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and the small Sakigake Party came up seven short of the target of 75 seats it had set for itself.

But the prime minister told a news conference he would not call snap elections for the more powerful lower house to address the setback dealt to his year-old government, which underwent its first national electoral test in Sunday's poll.

"I'm not thinking about that (a general election) at the moment," he said at his party's headquarters.

"Now the most important thing for us is to put all our efforts into dealing with the issues that confront us," said Mr. Murayama, 71, adding that the coalition would put its efforts into priority issues such as the high yen, administrative reform and the sluggish economy.

Elections for the lower house need not be held until mid-1997. Members of the 252-seat upper chamber,



Tomiichi Murayama

much less powerful than the 511-seat lower house, serve six-year terms, with half of the seats up for election every three years.

Mr. Murayama's efforts to avoid new polls put him squarely at odds with Japan's major newspapers, which called on the government Monday to resign and call a general election after an upper-house vote they termed a crisis for democracy.

"Murayama and the coalition heads should now be thinking about the fact that the time has come to dissolve the lower house and test public opinion in a general election," said the business daily *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*.

The biggest message of the election came from the record number of voters who stayed at home, signalling the depth of apathy towards politics that has built up after two years of revolving-door governments and fluid alliances.

"It was the lowest turnout

since the war and this shows distrust of politicians is high. I take this very seriously," Mr. Murayama said.

The prime minister's talks with coalition heads Monday produced a general agreement on a cabinet reshuffle, but did not decide the scale of the move.

"If I decide to reshuffle the cabinet, I will make a decision after Aug. 4, when the budget ceiling will be set," he said.

The big winner in the elections was the main opposition group Shinshinto (New Frontier Party), which was formed only nine months ago and was making its debut on the national stage.

The party won 40 seats and has now firmly emerged as Japan's second-largest party after the LDP.

Shinshinto leader Toshiki Kaifu said: "Voters critical of the LDP-Socialist collusion want us in power."

The opposition win puts

pressure on Mr. Murayama to make more drastic efforts at structural economic reform, analysts said.

"Shinshinto's victory suggests people seek reform and that the government will have to implement pro-reform policies," said Teizo Taya, director of the Daiwa Institute of Research.

Most of the record number of Japanese television stars who ran for election in Japan's upper house Sunday found their well known faces did not attract votes.

After a desperate 17-day campaign, only seven out of 26 television and sport celebrities standing were elected to the new House of Councillors in the first national polls since the ruling coalition took power in June last year.

Seiko Hashimoto, 30, a professional cyclist and speed-skating bronze medalist at the 1992 Albertville Winter Olympics, scored an easy victory as a candidate of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Other successful candidates include professional wrestler Hiroshi Hase, former professional football coach Kunishige Kamamoto, former revue star Akira Matsu and Kumi Tajima, former comedienne Makiako Suehiro and female television reporter Kei Hata.

But many others, including an essayist, an actor, a writer, another pro-wrestler and a professional skier, failed to live up to expectations that their celebrity status would launch them into the political limelight.

Success had seemed likely, following the surprise victories by two television personalities at April's gubernatorial polls in two major cities.

Yukio Aoshima won the key race in Tokyo and Knock Yokoyama was victorious in Osaka.

U.K., Irish aides meet to shore up peace process

BELFAST (AFP) — British and Irish government ministers met Monday to boost the stalled Northern Ireland peace process after Britain's Northern Ireland secretary said there was "fair hope" for progress on the disarmament issue blamed for the deadlock.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring and Justice Minister Nora Owen were to hold talks lasting two-to-three hours with Northern Ireland Secretary Sir Patrick Mayhew and the junior Northern Ireland minister, Michael Ancram.

The Anglo-Irish meeting — the second in two months — was preceded by a weekend of top level "intensive contacts" between leading Irish and British civil servants.

Ahead of the Sept. 1 first anniversary of the Irish Re-

publican Army's cessation of violence in its campaign against British rule in Northern Ireland, the British and Irish governments are particularly anxious to dispel mounting tension in the province.

According to Mr. Spring, the Belfast meeting will attempt to bolster the peace process, after 11 months without a bomb exploding or a shot being fired.

A feeling of impasse has dragged on for some two months, with talks stumbling principally over the issue of decommissioning of arms.

Britain has called on the IRA to make a "gesture" towards disarmament before allowing multiparty talks aimed at ending 25 years of sectarian violence in the province to begin.

Sir Patrick earlier Monday

defended secret talks he took part in last week with leaders of Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, which are likely to lead to further meetings.

Considering the delicate situation surrounding the peace process "we take all sensible opportunities to make sure that we know each others' position," he said.

"That is what we have down and that is what we are going to continue to do."

Sir Patrick, in optimistic mood, added he nurtured a "fair hope" for progress on the issue of disarmament in the foreseeable future and that multiparty talks could "soon" take place.

Irish sources said the two sides could Monday announce progress on a joint plan for disarmament.

British and Irish premiers

John Major and John Bruton revealed the plan existed at the European summit in Cannes, France, in June.

It could explain how the disarmament process could take place, but the question of when it could be set in motion still hangs in the balance.

Mr. Adams reiterated Sunday there was no question of the IRA disarming unilaterally.

But Irish sources said the announcement Monday of an easing of the British stance on the other major stumbling block namely the release of Republican and loyalist prisoners could help to appease nationalists.

Sir Patrick said Monday London was willing to soften its positions on the transfer to Northern Ireland of nationalist prisoners held in Britain.

China may test fire cruise missiles — report

TAIPEI (AFP) — China may fire cruise missiles from its southern or eastern coasts in a second round of missile testing to follow exercises ending this week, a mass-circulation newspaper reported Monday.

Beijing is likely to test fire 801 and 802-class cruise missiles, or even some recently developed weapons, from coastal bases or warships off China's southern Fujian or eastern Zhejiang provinces, the United Daily News said, quoting an unnamed military official.

The paper said cruise missile tests were even more threatening to Taiwan since they are difficult to detect and can reach their target more accurately.

Taiwan, which does not have the technology to detect the missile launches, has to rely on information from the United States or Japan, a reliable source told AFP.

The Defence Ministry confirmed four missile launches by China in the first and second day of the week-long drill which began Friday.

Of the four missiles, three reached the target area 90 miles (200 kilometres) off Taiwan's Pengchiayuan Island, but one missed the target, the ministry said.

The misfired missile landed near China's coast off Fujian province, the United Daily News said.

The paper said the missiles fired Friday and Saturday were M-9 ballistic missiles — without warheads — launched from a military base in Shangrao, Jiangxi province, and another unknown base.

Engine trouble in the rock-

et and not guided system failure was the reason given for one missile misfiring, the paper said, adding China had sent some 30 warships to the impact areas.

Taiwan had obtained information on the launches from the U.S., a reliable source told AFP.

There has been no confirmation of test firing Sunday or Monday. But the *China Times* Express, quoting fishery sources, said fishermen near the impact area saw fire and heard explosions in waters 30 nautical miles off Pengchiayuan Island.

Crews from five boats radioed reports of the sightings to their unions at around 2:45 a.m. Monday local time (1845 GMT Sunday) at 26.27 degrees north and 122.28 degrees east, the Express said.

Hsu Po-Sheng, director of the War College of the Armed Forces University, told reporters here Sunday that China was conducting its missile testing in the East China Sea because of the tense situation surrounding the disputed Spratly Islands.

On Monday, China, in its second media attack on Lee Teng-Hui in as many days, accused the Taiwanese president of using the cover of expanding the island's international "living space" to promote independence.

Xinhua published a lengthy commentary, to be carried Tuesday on the front page of the *People's Daily*, slamming calls by Mr. Lee during his controversial visit to the United States for Taiwan to be able to expand its "space of existence in the international community."

Arguing that China did not challenge Taiwan's development of non-governmental economic and cultural ties with other countries, the commentary said the kind of "living space" demanded by Mr. Lee was in fact the island's independence from China.

"We must tell Lee Teng-Hui clearly that the 'living space' he demanded for separating the motherland, for creating 'two Chinas' and for moving towards 'Taiwanese independence' can absolutely not be achieved," the commentary said.

"The Chinese people will never allow it to happen, nor will all the people in the world who love peace," it said, adding that Mr. Lee's efforts would lead Taiwan up "a blind alley."

China regards Taiwan as a renegade province and demands that all countries with which it maintains diplomatic ties conduct only non-official exchanges with the island. It also vigorously opposes Taipei's attempts to join the United Nations or send leaders to international events.

Taiwan Monday brushed off China's bitter attacks on President Lee, but protested its forced inspections of Taiwanese fishing boats in international waters.

The series of attacks against President Lee were highly irrational with the aim of inclining the public here against the president," said Chan Chin-Hung, planning director of the Mainland Affairs Council, Taiwan's top

mainland policy planning body, in a press conference.

"Their accusations were entirely baseless and totally far from the facts with the ultimate purpose of smearing the president," said Hansen Chien, a spokesman for the ruling Kuomintang, in another news meeting.

The latest Chinese attacks were based on Taiwanese press reports in March that said Mr. Lee had joined the youth group of the Taiwanese Communist Party when he was still a student, and later quit. The reports said Mr. Lee had been arrested and detained for four and a half months in 1960 for joining the party.

But Mr. Lee's office later denied the stories, saying they were totally groundless.

During a protest march in Taipei Sunday against China's week-long missile training just north of the Taiwanese coast, some right-wingers blamed Mr. Lee for provoking China into holding the drills by secretly promoting Taiwanese independence.

But cabinet officials said the eventual reunification of Taiwan and China remains a party goal.

The Mainland Affairs Council also strongly lashed out at China for its forced inspections of four Taiwanese fishing boats between July 12 and 17 near the disputed Spratly Islands chain in the South China Sea.

Its complaint echoed one earlier in the day from the semi-official Straits Exchange Foundation, which represents the government in talks with China in the absence of formal ties.

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Lesson from tragedy

JORDAN, THE Palestine Liberation Organisation, France, the U.S. and many other nations were quick to condemn and denounce in the strongest possible terms yesterday's suicide bomb attack in Tel Aviv that killed six people and injured 32. Both the Palestinians and the Israelis were also quick to announce that the bloody attack was waged by anti-peace elements whose major aim was to torpedo the progressing talks between the two sides. Israeli negotiators broke the talks to mourn their dead but resumed them a few hours later in a bid to show their determination to stay on the course that has been chosen to end the conflict once and for all.

It was wise and courageous of the PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat, to condemn the attack and of the Israeli Prime Minister, Yitzhak Rabin, to announce the continuation of the talks. Both men, through cooperation and goodwill, were able to halt the suicide bombing attacks for the past six months; and yesterday's attack should only strengthen their resolve to meet the same objective. It is therefore of utmost urgency that the talks continue, that Israel redeploy its troops and that Palestinian elections be held in all West Bank towns and villages.

The Arab-Israeli conflict, with what it has entailed in acts of violence and counter-violence, will not end before finding an acceptable solution to the Palestinian question. No matter how many agreements are signed between the Arabs and Israel, our people, and no doubt many Israelis as well, will not believe in that peace unless Israel is willing to accept Palestinian self-determination and their right to establish their own state.

We believe that Israel and the Palestinians can and will reach agreement on the "redemption" issue soon. But what is even more important in the quest to end the nearly century-old conflict through compromise, is to have a clear vision and new determination to reach the final settlement. Shlomo Gazit, a former Israeli army chief of intelligence, wrote in a recent article that he finds it difficult to understand Israel's reluctance to do what is necessary for this settlement. "This sidestepping and avoidance is one of the things preventing the Palestinian side from deciding in principle to end the violent struggle against Israel," he said. "And as long as they (Palestinians) attain their goal (of statehood), we cannot demand that they lay down their arms."

The Israelis may not like to be reminded of Mr. Gazit's conclusion on this sad day in their history. But it is as true for them as for us that once the Palestinians achieve their final objective, "there will no longer be any point in continuing the struggle."

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

EVERY TIME the Israelis face difficulty in their negotiations with the Palestinians, they tend to refer the point in question to the final phase of the negotiations in a bid to gain time, which is a clear sign of procrastination that lays further obstacles in the path of peace talks, said a writer in Al Ra'i Monday. Mahmoud Rimawi said that the latest such instance is the water question that surfaced as a result of Israel's adamant stand concerning the water resources in the occupied West Bank, which it continues to exploit and wishes to keep. Originally, the final phase of the negotiations was slated for discussing the question of refugees, the status of Jerusalem and the fate of the Jewish settlements, said the writer, who added that the water question tends to add obstacles before the negotiators. The writer said that no independent Palestinian political entity can survive without the basic natural resources like water, which has been exploited by Israel for the past 27 years of occupation. Urging the Palestinian negotiators to cling hard to the national rights of the Palestinian people, the writer said that these negotiators also have a duty of exposing the Israeli expansionist ambitions and to show the world that Israel is not yet ready for peace long as it holds on to the Arab lands and water resources.

A WRITER in Al Dustour criticised a practice by public and private institutions which, he said, resort to foreign expertise on a regular basis to undertake feasibility studies of projects. Such practice, especially by those institutions that are being privatised, can have very negative effect on the national economy, said Mohammad Daoud. Systems and formulas adopted in New York, London or Paris are not necessarily beneficial for or applicable to situations in the Kingdom.

The View from Fourth Circle

Jordan's tribalist triumph and 15th century Spain

By Rami G. Khouri

THE CONVINCING victory by tribalist political forces in the municipal elections earlier this month was not particularly surprising, but it is very important. The ongoing retribalisation of our political system raises profound yet sensitive questions about the character of Jordanian individual and national identity, and the manner in which Jordan will deal with its key national challenges in the immediate future.

The municipal elections, though portrayed as a triumph of democratic modernisation, were almost exactly the opposite: They were a particularly dramatic example of how the essentially Anglo-Saxon, secular concepts of democratic modernisation were soundly absorbed into the more powerful, indigenous Jordanian/Arab/Islamic/Semitic political governance traditions that are defined primarily by tribalism, but also by religion, monarchy. In a cultural and political clash between the old world and the new, the new world took a particularly brutal beating.

I believe it is unfair to judge this process in a qualitative manner, to label tribalism as something politically good, bad or neutral. Tribalism is the dominant fact of our human and social environment. In the same manner that semi-aridity is a fact of our climate and hospitality is a fact of our social culture. The important need is to understand what tribalism means for our political and national future, to manage the retribalisation of Jordanian national political culture in a manner that serves the best interests of Jordan and the majority of Jordanians, and to attempt to build on the strengths of tribal identity in a manner that can lead us to those national and individual goals that we all know and work for.

The reasons for the neo-tribalist triumph are pretty obvious. In Jordan and elsewhere in this region, and they include: the slow deterioration of the capacity of the modern state to assure the basic human needs of all its citizens; the general political failure of Islamist politics and other modern, urban, mass ideologies; the need to feel secure in a proven, indigenous identity system in order to make the transition to a new Middle East in which Israeli-American interests are — at least in the short term — among the most critical criteria of public decision-making; and the need to reassert our authentic cultural values as the most — perhaps the only — credible antidote to the powerful stream of political, commercial, social and strategic predatory forces coming at us from the West.

Tribalism offers pride, dignity, and — when linked to public power — it also offers jobs, telephones and university seats. Tribalism never vanished from Jordan, but in the past half a century it has been temporarily hidden underneath a series of forces that tried to capture the imagination of the Jordanian individual and of society as a whole — forces such as pan-Arabism, Islamism, Jordanian nationalism, Palestinian radicalism, consumerism, materialistic urbanism, and others. All of these forces remain valid, but none has been able single-handedly to replace tribalism as the primary identity of most Jordanians.

In this respect, we should heed the words of one of our leading political figures, Mr. Abdul Hadi Majali, who commented with his usual frankness and clarity after the municipal elections: "There is nothing wrong with tribalism. This is Jordan and not Switzerland."

I agree with Mr. Majali's descriptive affirmation of our tribal soul, but I would like to hear him and others of his stature and leadership qualities address the deeper, longer term implications of our Jordanian rather than Swiss attributes. Indeed, there is nothing wrong with tribalism. But, I would argue, the question is not about whether tribalism is right or wrong (see paragraphs three through five above); the question is: Does tribalism offer a satisfactory, effective governance system for Jordanians in the closing years of the 20th century?

My answer to that is: perhaps, but only if we summon the composure, truth and diligence required to modernise political tribalism in order for it to meet the needs of a society that suffers relatively high rates of poverty, unemployment and underemployment, that is nearly 65 per cent urban, that still relies heavily on external financial support, and which — in the very same week that the municipal elections were held — saw more than half of all its secondary school students fail their examinations.

Tribalism has defined our culture and lands for approximately the past 12,000 years, ever since people started living in small seasonal camps or hamlets around 10,000 BC. The compelling need to assure the physical, social and mental well-being of settled communities, especially in a semi-arid environment, saw tribalism emerge as the most appropriate form of social organisation, which in turn gave rise to patriarchal forms of communal governance, decision-making and political responsibility. The fact that tribalism has endured for so long is testament to its continued relevance to the majority of people in our region. The reassertion of tribalism is not a sign of Jordanian stupidity, but rather a sign of Jordanian gut intelligence about the best way to survive — in the short term, at least.

It is not clear that tribalism in its present form can endure as the predominant social and political attribute of our culture for a few more millennia, given the pressures of meeting basic human needs in an urbanised, consumer, cash and wage labour economy. Tribalism was very effective or decades after the 1920s, for example, when the population of Jordan did not exceed several hundred thousand people. Can it continue to work well in Jordan in, say, ten years' time, when our population will be around seven million people, and pressures on our water, employment, agriculture and other key sectors are likely to have increased proportionately. Probably not. I suspect, therefore, that tribalism, like Islamism and our experiment years ago with the National Consultative Council, should be seen as natural, indigenous yet purely transitional political phenomenon.

The interaction between the modern state and tribalism

is highly complex, as we can recall from, say, 13th century England, 6th century Spain, late 18th century France and 19th century America. Our experience in political transformation and modernisation in Jordan is an important case to watch because — unlike those examples just mentioned — we seem to be trying to replace our indigenous, ancient and very deeply rooted tribal traditions with modern, superficial and imported concepts of Western-style political modernism.

England, Spain, France and the United States largely succeeded in their national endeavours because they took the time required to formulate their own brands of modern political governance systems, based on their own cultures and social traditions. I suspect that the neo-tribalist municipal electoral triumph in Jordan is a signal from the soul and the grassroots of Jordan that most people would like to see a slightly slower pace of political change, and that new, modern Jordanian forms of political organisation should be more carefully tailored to indigenous cultural traits.

The signs are rather clear, if we care to see them. Between them, the tribalists and the Islamists probably accounted for over 90 per cent of all votes. Most political parties stayed away from the elections, fielded only a few candidates, or — most amazing of all, including Mr. Majali's powerful Al Ahd Party — ran their candidates in the elections but did not identify them as party candidates. I find the latter rather intriguing.

What is this creature we are witnessing: is it democracy, or is it tribalism? Or is it a new form of political culture that we are developing, in which the apparent public attributes of democratic pluralism are actually secondary to the real power of hidden tribal affiliation and credibility?

It will be important not only to identify this new phenomenon, but also to track it as it moves along into the next millennium and attempts to address those many human and national needs on a nationwide scale that its many predecessors have not successfully met. Given our urban demographic deployment and our many economic needs, tribalism will be deeply challenged now to meet the test of incumbency that the Islamists have so far failed: to provide all the people with telephones, clean water, jobs, education, quality health care and affordable food, among other things.

Tribalists have always been done it on a local tribal scale, and they have also done it on a national scale when population size and needs were both relatively manageable, and external financial support was strong. They have never faced a test such as this: to govern nationally and locally, and to respond to people's needs in a relatively tight domestic economic and social needs situation, coupled with external fiscal flows and social needs situation; coupled with external fiscal flows that are firm for now but are likely to decline in the years to come.

This is tribalism's greatest triumph, but also its greatest political test.

World should not allow U.S. to manipulate the U.N.

'The Israelis, in dealing with the peace process, lack sincerity, good will and respect to others' rights.'

By Rev. Ibrahim Ayad

I HAVE to thank the Chief of the U.N. Division for Palestinian Rights for convening this symposium on the basis of U.N. resolution adopted by the U.N. General Assembly on Dec. 14, 1994, requesting the Committee of the exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People to continue to extend its cooperation to the NGOs in their endeavours of heightening awareness of the question of Palestine, and to promote support and assistance to meet the needs of the Palestinian people.

On this occasion, it is opportune to evaluate this very important problem, the Palestinian problem, which is the core of all problems prevailing in the Middle East, and all the other problems are corollaries and consequences of this central problem. All of us know that the Palestinian problem had been on the doorsteps, when the U.N. was first established and opened, and it is still there waiting for a solution.

In retrospect, we may wrongly register that the U.N. had dealt with the Palestinian question in persistent and problem-solving manner.

First, the General Assembly tirelessly continued to place the case on its agenda. Moreover, special sessions were called to discuss the issue. The Security Council held tens if not hundreds of meetings to study the various aspects of this problem. The U.N. had produced, in accumulation, a full-scale file of studies, recommendations and resolutions on the subject. Thus, it played a crucial and fundamental role in keeping the case in focus and alive.

Second, the U.N. established a special agency — UNRWA — to provide support for the Palestinian refugees. This agency did not only help the Palestinians in the areas of food, housing, education, work and health, it furthermore gave them the chance to preserve and even solidify their sense of national identity.

Third, the U.N. and the Security Council resolutions had drawn the guidelines of some kind of solution for the conflict. In this respect, it is rather suitable to point out the partition plan of November 1947, which called for the establishment in Palestine of two states: an Arab and a Jew-

ish state. It is also good to remember resolution number 194 of 1949, which provided the basis to solve the problem of the Palestinian refugees.

In all these aspects and others, the efforts and achievements of the U.N. were valuable and worthy to be highly appreciated.

It should not escape our evaluation, that all of the U.N. resolutions on Palestine had stopped short of providing a mechanism for implementation. A deficiency that reflected a regrettable deep lack of will and resolve. By taking this attitude, the U.N. had left the conflict open-ended and therefore, gave way to power and force rather than to right and justice to gain the upper hand.

During the seventies and the eighties, the U.N. approached the problem in a more specific and practical manner. Many resolutions were taken, though as many were aborted by the U.S. and other Western countries vetoes of all events, however, four notable achievements should be mentioned:

1. The admission of Palestine, represented by the PLO as an observer members in the U.N.
2. The non-recognition of the U.N. of any unilateral measure taken by Israel to change the status of the occupied East Jerusalem.
3. The terming of the West Bank and Gaza Strip as the occupied Palestinian lands.

4. The declaration of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories as illegal and an obstacle to peace. It is a fact that the Palestinians were never fully satisfied with the U.N. resolutions because they feel that these resolutions had taken more regard of the fait-accompli than of their rights.

Nevertheless, the Palestinians learned to look at the positive side. They accepted the resolutions and they recognised the international legality inherent in them.

Ironically, the U.N. and the international legality were both excluded from the latest endeavours to establish peace in the Middle East. Their exclusion was an Israeli precondition, which seemed to fulfill also an American interest. Furthermore, Resolution 242 which could not have been avoided was left subject to different ways of interpretations. As you all know, the

exclusion was reaffirmed last month in the Security Council, when the U.S. which is considered a pillar of this international institution, challenged the whole world and international law, and vetoed a draft resolution on the issue of the Israeli usurpation of Palestinian lands in East Jerusalem.

Palestinians, as they often do, confronted the nagging question about whether the American role can biaslessly serve the cause of just and fair peace, by crushing the most elementary principles of justice, by the use of their veto powers in favour of Israel over its confiscation of the Arab land in East Jerusalem. I ask, should not the world community learn something from the Palestinian case? Should they not perceive and therefore restrain the dangers inherent in the one party monopoly over the international decision-making?

The U.S. policies in the Middle East are biased and unjust, it is against the evidence to pretend otherwise, because every day we have facts showing their flagrant partiality and connivance. They encouraged Israel to be expansionist and intransigent, the last veto in the Security Council for Israeli confiscation of the Arab land in Jerusalem is really shameful and inhuman, these unqualified acts certainly increase and prolong the suffering of our Palestinian people.

So far, and after four years of the peace process sponsored by the United States, the Palestinian people have not felt any significant change in their situation. Actually, the self-rule is becoming a state of siege. Jerusalem is closed to the Arab Muslims and Christians so is the Gaza Strip. The confiscation of the Palestinian land is continuing — even accelerating. Israel is refraining from implementing what should have been implemented a year ago. For

Mr. Rabin, agreed upon dates are not sacred, but the same time, Israelis are stealing the land, so when the final stage arrives, there will be nothing to negotiate for.

Had the U.N. shown more will to defend its role and not to acquiesce to the powerful and biased American dictate, then the peace process could have had a different and much more advanced starting point. Had the U.N. insisted that its resolutions embody the international legality, then the guidelines of a solution would have easily been traced.

But, unfortunately, the U.N. had again stopped short of showing any resolve, owing to the Zionists' big influence and the unfair American pressure.

As we have seen through the long history of the Palestinian question, the U.N. showed an effort that should be appreciated and we, the Palestinian people, do appreciate it. Yet the same history shows that noble values such as those inherent in the Charter do not in themselves constitute a guarantee against deviation and default. It is our duty as persons, organisations and nations to share the responsibility of safeguarding these values. The ongoing long suffering of many people displays what may happen when the world loses vision or when the international will slackens. No other people, at least in the Middle East, had suffered and still suffer oppression, usurpation of land and water and hideous occupation. The Israelis, in dealing with the peace process, lack sincerity, good will and respect to others' rights. These qualities are the basic foundation of a just and lasting peace, according to the wise words of the late Pope Paul VI, when he declared in the United Nations: "People could attain peace by striving to build up among mankind the necessary preconditions for peace, which are justice, respect for the dignity and human rights of

the others, self-control and love for all people." Isaiah the prophet in Chapter 32 says "that only justice will bring about peace and right will produce calm and stability."

Mr. Rabin insulted Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto when she declared her intention to visit Gaza, without his permission. He talks about Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian leadership always in contemptuous manner. He never complied with the agreement signed with the Palestinians. I believe that this is a result of a permanent psychosis of superiority complex that the Israelis

statutes, the altar and other religious objects in the church.

The Apostolic Nuncio, after visiting the church and hearing the details of the incident declared: "The Israeli society is extremist and does not accept the non-Jews." He added: "The Israelis cannot ask the church to condemn anti-Semitism while the Jews do nothing to erase their sentiments against Christianity." The Vatican representative, Monsignor Quadro Lanza de Montezemolo, the first Nuncio of the Catholic church in Israel, declared to an Italian newspaper, Il Corriere Della Sera: "The problem

'The U.S. policies in the Middle East are biased and unjust. It is against the evidence to pretend otherwise.'

are cherishing as they consider themselves to be the chosen people called to rule the world and intoxicated by the Talmudic teachings, which consider Goem (non-Jews) inferior to them; the Talmud proscribes that it is a duty to keep a gentile slave enslaved forever (cf. Israel Shahak, Jewish history, Jewish religion p.95).

The Jews behave with the Palestinians as occupiers and rulers. Thus the great late General Charles de Gaulle described them as "people arrogant, fier de soi, et dominateur." This complex is the main obstacle to real and lasting peace in the region.

Three weeks ago an Israeli soldier set fire in the Gethsemani Basilica in Jerusalem. The Franciscan Fathers, custodian of the Basilica, came in time and extinguished the fire. The criminal escaped unmolested. A week later, an Israeli soldier entered St. Anthony's Church in Jaffa and started shooting inside the church, spreading terror and panic among the worshippers and destroying

is connected with the system to education in the values cherished in Israel because they are based on hostility and refusal against every person who is not a Jew. These feelings against Christians are spreading more and more in the Israeli society."

This declaration angered the Israeli government, but Israelis cannot deny facts. So we, the Palestinian people, do not want other peoples to go through what we have gone through, and experience sufferings we endured. We, the Palestinians, always extended our hands to our Jewish cousins for reconciliation, to live together in harmony and equal rights.

I, in their name, call upon the international community to see to that.

The writer is president of the Palestine Committee for NGOs. The above article is adapted from a speech he gave in June at a symposium on "The U.N. on its 50th anniversary and the Question of Palestine."

Features

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, JULY 25, 1995

No cheers, only tears for Srebrenica survivor

By Daniel J. Wakin
The Associated Press

TUZLA, Bosnia-Herzegovina — It was a journey of heroic effort. But there were no cheers when Sefik Hasanovic arrived in this central Bosnian city, not even a change of clothes.

After 10 days of terror in Bosnia's forests, surviving on leaves and wild mushrooms, Mr. Hasanovic's feat was greeted only by his nephew's tears.

Mr. Hasanovic was one of an estimated 40,000 Muslims expelled by Bosnian Serbs from the U.N.-declared "safe area" of Srebrenica, which fell to the Serbs July 11. Some 29,000 arrived in the first few days, and another 8,000 — mostly men — are missing.

With so much loss, even survivors have little time for anything but sorrow.

Twelve hours after his arrival, Mr. Hasanovic lay weakly on a bed in a refugee camp field hospital run by Pakistani U.N. peacekeepers. His feet

were swollen and bandaged. He wore a 10-day growth of beard. The sleeves were ripped from his shirt.

"I've never killed anybody in my life, but now I could kill anyone," said Mr. Hasanovic, 40, who repaired scales for a living before the war.

His account echoed numerous others in describing a road out of Srebrenica flanked by the bodies of dead Muslims and shooting attacks on groups of fleeing refugees.

Survivors provided widespread accounts of rapes, ambushes and executions of Muslims by Bosnian Serbs, who deny the charges.

Mr. Hasanovic said he left the enclave after seven days of shelling with his 18-year-old son. His wife and other two sons, 4, and 13, remained behind but reached safety. He knows from a relative that they are somewhere in the Tuzla area.

As he spoke to a visitor, Mr. Hasanovic's nephew pushed through the tent opening and began weep-

ing. Bandages covered bullet wounds to his right upper arm and shoulder blade, suffered in escaping the Srebrenica attack a week earlier. Sulejman Hasanovic, 35, had come to pick up his family from the camp and was told of his uncle's arrival.

Mr. Hasanovic and his son lived off tree leaves, apples and a common type of bitter wild mushroom, which becomes sweet when covered with salt for several hours, he said. They would dive into the bushes or along riverbanks at the sound of approaching Serbs. Hundreds of others are still out there, waiting to return, he said.

It was "with the help of God" that he survived, Mr. Hasanovic said.

"I believed that in every moment, he wanted to get me here," he said. He said he feels proud to have saved his son, a soldier who was resting in the care of the government army.

After four days in the woods, Mr. Hasanovic hooked up with a group of about 50 refugees. A man

appeared who said he could guide them to safety. But Mr. Hasanovic noticed mines began appearing on the route. He was seized with suspicion.

"I cried, 'no, people, no, don't go.' The guide, he thinks, was a Serb spy."

Only a few turned back. He doesn't know their fate. On Friday, before reaching a frontline Muslim village more than 100 kilometres from Srebrenica, Mr. Hasanovic joined another large group. Machine gun fire broke out and the group split into two. Again, another attack. Mr. Hasanovic ran off with 12 people, two of whom also lay exhausted in the tent. He did not know what happened to the rest or the exact location of the shootings.

At about 4 a.m. Saturday, his pants soaked from the dew on the tall grass, Mr. Hasanovic ran into a military patrol. They convinced him they were Bosnian Muslims by reciting from the Koran, Mr. Hasanovic said.

"Then I started crying."



A young refugee boy in Tuzla smiles as he recognises that he is being watched by a photographer (AFP photo)

Rash of Indian student suicides disturbs analysts

By Sonali Verma
Reuters

NEW DELHI — Alarmed by suicides by students who failed India's competitive school examinations, social analysts worry changes in tradition-bound Indian society are nudging it towards a crisis.

"In Delhi, 66 per cent of eligible class 12 graduates cannot get admission into colleges because there aren't enough seats," said George Mathew, a sociologist who heads New Delhi's Institute for Social Sciences. "Of course they're frustrated."

India has recently reserved about half of all government jobs and state-funded college seats for people belonging to low castes and tribes, leaving ambitious youngsters from the higher castes to compete fiercely for the remainder.

A 15-year-old schoolgirl in the western Indian state of Maharashtra drowned herself in kerosene earlier this month and set herself ablaze after failing her class 10 examinations. Another hung herself from a tree.

Eighteen-year-old Asha Bansal shot herself at the end of June after she discovered she had failed her high-school mathematics examination. "She was keen to do well in life..." a newspaper quoted a relative as saying.

The sole standard for admission to most Indian universities is a student's performance in three to five subjects in a centralised examination administered by state-run boards.

Psychiatric social worker Vatsala Sivasubramanian, who heads Sanjivini, a well-known New Delhi counselling centre, quoted a suicidal client as saying, "I did not necessarily want to die — but I did not want to live."

Schoolchildren in India often study up to 18 hours a day. "They give up everything — friends, music, sports. Then, when they do badly, the bottom of their lives falls out," she said.

With the splintering of Indian families, where several generations and branches of a clan lived in the same home, analysts say a child's support system has started to crumble.

"If you failed your tests, your grandma would say, 'big deal, you're still my hero. Now, both parents turn to?' asks Mr. Sivasubramanian.

"There's not that much communication now," added Mr. Mathew. "When you watch television... who talks to their families anymore?"

He said added pressure to make money was a fall-out of India's four-year-old economic reforms programme, under which the government dismantled barriers to private and foreign participation in a largely socialist economy.

"In the past, your greatest achievement was educating your child to join the government," Mr. Mathew said. "Now, everyone wants their child to do an MBA (masters of business administration) and join a foreign firm."

He said teenagers were still pushed to fit into "slots" in Indian society,

which traditionally recognised very few careers as acceptable — medicine, engineering and government jobs — which offered security as well as money or power.

While science courses have traditionally been the most sought after for their potential to spawn engineers and doctors, commerce, accountancy and economics have recently gained popularity as stepping stones to business school.

"There's so much more income disparity now than there was 40 years ago, and you need much more money to live comfortably," Ms. Sivasubramanian said. "If you don't have the qualifications that you need to buy life's better things, you haven't made it."

"There is, unfortunately, no reward for being average. Which is very sad, because average, by definition, means normal — it has to include 70 per cent of the population," she said.

"It's the catching-up syndrome which India's urban middle class is strongly prone to, they're always copying the child next door," Mr. Mathew said. "And those who can't catch up get no support from their families or peers. They are persecuted."

Ms. Sivasubramanian said the pressure which Indian families put their children under was similar to Japan's, because both societies had rigid patriarchal structures.

"It's very difficult to tell your father you want to be a sculptor when he tells you to be a merchant banker," she said.

Eritreans insist they are not Arabs

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The "flag" of Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times, the blue map of the Arab World lying in the background of the two papers' names, is something Jordanians and non-Jordanians got accustomed to — and almost attached to.

It has punctually and faithfully accompanied the block typed words "Al-Ra'i" and "Jordan Times" since the two newspapers were started. (Al Ra'i 25 years ago and the Jordan Times 19 years ago), and now becomes the subject of a debate.

"Why does the map of the Arab World on Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times include Eritrea, which is neither an Arab country nor a member of the Arab League?" Resoom Haile, secretary general of the Eritrean community in Amman, asks.

The question is not idle at all: Eritrea shouldn't have been included had the designer intended to draw the map of the members of the Arab League or to represent the geographical extension of the Arab World, says Dr. Haile, representative of the 150-170 Eritreans living in Amman. In fact, Eritrea doesn't appear in the list of the 22 member

states of the Arab League and it is not, under any point of view, (linguistic, ethnic or cultural), an Arab state.

"Far from being offended by the fact of being considered Arabs, we very simply want our right to define ourselves. Our country was shattered by the liberation war, its economy suffered massive damages and its people died of famine. Eritreans fought heroically for their independence," Dr. Haile says.

Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie annexed Eritrea in 1962, but before the country was transformed into an Ethiopian province, at the end of 1961, the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), had proclaimed an armed struggle for independence.

After a three-decade liberation war against Ethiopia, a referendum unanimously sanctioned the Eritrean people's independence, and in 1993 Eritrea finally became a sovereign state and a member of the United Nations.

"If Eritrea was a member of the Arab League, still that wouldn't mean the Eritreans are Arabs, but at least it could explain why Eritrea was included in the map of Al Ra'i and the Jordan Times," Dr. Haile says. "Non-Arab states, like Somali and Djibouti"

he says, are members of the Arab League.

Applying or not for membership in the Arab League is an issue now being debated between the ELF, which refused to join the other political groups in the new Eritrean government and is at the opposition since 1993, and the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF), currently in power.

"Without any doubt, it would be a great benefit for Eritrea to become a member of the Arab League," Idris Abdullah Ahmad, director of the ELF office in Amman says. According to Mr. Ahmad, Eritrea, which was supported by Arab countries in her struggle for independence, could gain economically and strengthen its international role by joining the Arab League.

About Eritrean relations with the Arab World, Mr. Ahmad says: "Our roots are linked with the Arab people: geographical and economic factors made so that we developed many religious and social similarities."

Eritrea lies on the southwestern coast of the Red Sea and is bounded on the south-east by Djibouti, on the south and west by Ethiopia, and on the north and north-west by Sudan. Approximately half of the Eritrean population con-

sists of Tigrinya-speaking Christians, and the other half of Muslims, belonging to several different ethnic and linguistic groups. The most widely spoken languages are Arabic and Tigrinya.

"I'd say it is inaccurate to include Eritrea in a map of the Arab World or among Arab League countries. Certainly, Eritreans are close to Arab culture and familiar with it, but we couldn't be defined as Arabs. Nor has Eritrea ever applied, until now, for membership in the Arab League," Mr. Ahmad Mahmoud, of the consular office of the Eritrean embassy in Cairo, says.

"In one year the new Eritrean constitution will be ready and general elections will be held. Only after that we will be ready to decide whether to submit our application to the Arab League or not," Mr. Mahmoud says.

But what do Eritreans in Jordan think about being considered Arabs and their country being included in a map whether representing the Arab World or the states of the Arab League?

"We never realised we are being considered Arabs. To us the same treatment as to all the other non-Arab workers applies: JD 300 for a one-year working permit," many of them say.

The Eritrean community in Amman, that counts between 150 and 170 people, is very conscious of its identity and proud of its country's newly achieved independence. Most of them are refugees, holding regular travel permits issued by the U.N. and had fought in the liberation war.

In most cases, Eritreans arrived here in transit on their way back home or to other countries, but couldn't afford to continue their travel and try to survive with dignity at the edge of this society. The ones among them who got their new Eritrean passport show it proudly. "Our ultimate task is help them to go back home," members of the Eritrean community's board explain.

"If Eritreans feel they belong to the Arab culture, then they are Arabs," Ali Mahafzah, ex-president of Yarmouk and Mutah University and professor of history at the University of Jordan, says. "Arabs believe they are Arabs not because they belong to a same ethnic group, but because they share the same culture, whose five main components are: language, history, Islamic religion, heritage and belief in a common destiny. Arabism is the popular will of a people," Dr. Mahafzah says.

Western troops deploy around Sarajevo

(Continued from page 1)

news agency, criticised the lack of action by the Western powers in Bosnia.

"We feel a big disappointment because of the major powers' inability to take rapid retaliatory measures to put an end to the injustice against a small

country and a people wanting to live in peace," he said.

Islamic military chief to meet

Defence ministers and

military commanders from eight Islamic countries will attend forthcoming Organisation of Islamic Conference talks on ways to help Bosnia, Iran's foreign minister said Monday.

The official Islamic Republic news agency, monitored in Nicaragua, quoted Ali Akbar Velayati as saying in an interview with the Tehran daily Iran that under the U.N. charter the Bosnian government has the right to conclude "defensive contracts" with other countries.

The IRNA report did not elaborate. But it noted that Mr. Velayati stressed that an emergency meeting in Geneva last week of the OIC's eight-member contact group on Bosnia declared that the U.N. arms embargo on the former Yugoslavia was illegal and invalid.

Malaysian arms? Kuala Lumpur said it will

consult all members of the OIC on Malaysia's willingness to sell weapons to Bosnia, the national Bernama news agency reported on Monday.

Malaysia's permanent representative to the United Nations Razali Ismail said on Monday that Malaysia could not act alone and needed the cooperation and support of all OIC member countries, Bernama reported.

Over the weekend, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad said Malaysia was willing to sell weapons to Bosnia following the declaration by the OIC that the United Nations arms embargo on the Balkan state was invalid.

The Sunday Times newspaper quoted Mr. Mahathir as saying on Saturday that Malaysia would also supply more weapons to its force of more than 1,500 peacekeepers in Bosnia. Meanwhile Russian

Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev arrived in Belgrade Monday for talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic to try to avert an escalation of Western military involvement in Bosnia.

He was expected to brief Mr. Milosevic on Friday's London crisis conference.

In a brief arrival statement at Belgrade airport, Mr. Kozyrev said he had no plans to meet with Bosnian Serb leaders during his visit, which a Russian source said was to end on Tuesday.

Mr. Kozyrev stressed that warring parties in Bosnia needed to agree to a ceasefire quickly, saying the Serbs "should not seize Gorazde" and that government forces "should also stop attacks on the Serbs."

He also urged a swift conclusion to talks between the five-nation "contact group" and the rump Yugoslavia on lifting sanctions against Belgrade if it recognises Bosnia and Croatia.

Suicide bomber

(Continued from page 1)

Police spokesman Eric Bar-Chen said six bodies had been found, which he said "may or may not include the attacker." Police were working on the assumption that it was a suicide bomb attack, he said.

Based on interviews with witnesses, Israel television said the bombing suspect was a bearded man wearing 25 and 30 years old wearing dark trousers and a striped shirt. Police said they had identified five of the six bodies by Monday night. They released the names of four of the victims — three women in their 60s and a 75-year-old man, all from the Tel Aviv area.

At the Ichilov hospital in Tel Aviv where most of the survivors were taken, frantic relatives searched lists of the wounded and crowded around a television set broadcasting live reports from the scene. Improvised emergency rooms were set up to treat the burned and bloodied victims.

Assaf Hafetz, chief of national police, said the explosion appeared to be caused by a suicide bomber standing in the middle of the bus.

Mr. Rabin said the attacker was apparently carrying a pipe stuffed with explosives.

The possibility that more than one person was involved in the attack was raised by some witnesses, including a medic who arrived at the scene just after the explosion. He said a man got off the bus speaking on a cellular telephone and said in Arabic, "we slaughtered people," then left the scene.

The explosion occurred a day before Israel and the PLO were scheduled to complete negotiations on expanding Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank — a process that has been delayed for a year.

Moshe Katzav, a leader of the opposition Likud Party, said the government should reevaluate its policy of negotiating with the Palestinians. "This process is not one of peace," he said.

Economy Minister Yossi Beilin, who has been involved in the negotiating process, said the talks should continue despite the attack and calls by right-wing activists to freeze the process. "We will never surrender to them," Mr. Beilin said.

One year on Washington Declaration

(Continued from page 1)

Foundations laid

Agreements which have been initiated but are awaiting final approval are on the economy (on trade, labour, investment and banking), the environment, communication, health, transportation, energy, joint Aqaba-Eilat projects and water.

Businessmen from both countries, who have established contacts with each other during meetings over the past few months, cannot seal deals they have discussed before a trade pact is signed.

Mr. Kabariti said that he expected a repeal of decades-old laws that prohibit all dealings with Israel to be passed by Parliament this week. Draft legislation that calls for the repeal of the three laws — a 1953 law that bans trade with Israel, a 1958 law for boycotting Israel and a 1973 law that bans land sales to Israelis — has been under consideration by the Judiciary and Financial Committee of the Lower House of Parliament since the end of last month and will be discussed by Parliament Wednesday.

Mr. Shamir predicted that in the coming year "we shall see very active, very

intensive efforts on both sides to work together for the development of our region."

Mr. Shamir identified ideological opposition and psychological resistance to peace as two factors hampering the process of normalisation.

"We are facing the problem of ideological opposition to peace, and psychological resistance. From people who feel that this is so dramatic a change that they cannot digest it," he said.

In addition, the ambassador sees Jordanian-Israeli relations being influenced by progress or the lack of it in other peace tracks, so that difficulties in the negotiations with the Palestinians or the Syrians are reflected in the mood of the public in Jordan.

Mr. Shamir concluded by saying that geography and demography demand that the Jordanian-Israeli relationship be very active. "We have so much interdependence along our borders, and between our societies, that cooperation, I think, will become inevitable," he said.

World condemn attack

(Continued from page 1)

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin to express solidarity with victims of the bombing," Mr. Rabin's spokesman said.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat telephoned Mr. Rabin to extend his condolences to the families of the victims, Mr. Arafat's spokesman Nabil Abu Rdaineh said.

"I condemn completely this terrorist activity. This is an attempt to sabotage the (peace) talks and the peace process," Mr. Arafat told reporters in Gaza, headquar-

ters of the Palestinian self-rule authority.

The British Foreign office said in a statement: "It (the attack) is a clear attempt to undermine the peace process at a sensitive moment and the attempt must not succeed."

France condemned the bombing, saying such crimes would not stand in the way of Arab-Israeli peace. "France condemns the heinous attack launched this morning in Ramat Gan near Tel Aviv," a French foreign ministry spokesman told a news briefing. "The authors of this mur-

derous crime must know their acts are without hope and won't stop the peace process," he added.

Italian Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli condemned the bombing as "a vile and barbaric act," and urged Israel not to let it derail peace talks.

"It appears clear that the true objective was again that of striking the prospect of peace and the negotiating process with the instruments of terrorism," Mr. Abnelli said in a message to Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Gulf mutual funds gain popularity

DUBAI (R) — Locally-managed mutual funds investing in regional equities are gradually gaining popularity in the Gulf, which has long been a big investor in international stocks and bonds, bankers and financial analysts said on Monday.

"There has been a recent change in that some banks have set up funds for investment in the region itself," a manager at a Bahrain-based Investment House said.

"This is because in the last five years the stock markets have begun to develop and their liquidity improve," he added.

Analysts say the number of local mutual funds and their popularity is set to further expand as Gulf markets are made more accessible to foreigners and privatisation plans proceed.

Of the six Gulf Cooperation Council states, Kuwait, Bahrain and Oman have official exchanges, Saudi Arabia has an official computer-based market but no trading floor and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar have plans to set up official markets soon. There are also plans eventually to link the

six markets.

Mutual funds are relatively new to the region and there are no reliable estimates of the size of the market so far.

Launched in the 1980s, they initially offered only offshore managed foreign funds marketed under a local bank's name. This still accounts for much of their business in a region which has long exported much of its capital through fear of instability and perceived lack of opportunity at home.

But now, many of the major Saudi banks, including Saudi American and Saudi British, have funds which invest purely in Saudi stocks.

In Oman a number of funds investing only in Omani equities have appeared like the \$52 million Oryx fund. Many are listed on the Muscat market and more are planned for late-1995. They differ from Saudi funds as foreigners can own up to 49 per cent.

Foreigners are also permitted to participate in Kuwait's two listed funds, the \$82 million First Investment Fund and the Real Estate Fund, launched last year.

In Bahrain local funds have also recently popped up. Unlimited foreign participation in the \$8 million Dilmun Index Fund, which invests solely in Bahraini equities and is managed by Bahrain International Bank (BIB), is permitted.

"The authorities want to encourage foreign ownership in a controlled manner," BIB assistant director of corporate finance Gavin Mailer-Howat said, adding: "There have been great restrictions in the past and share of ownership has tended to be the preserve of very few."

But bankers say privatisation of huge state firms and the expanding role of the private sector in the region is likely to further boost local markets and mutual fund business.

"Privatisation will be a big boost to the region's markets. An element of foreign participation would also be good for the markets," Mr. Mailer-Howat said.

"Privatisation will mean funds have more choice, and risk can be further diversified," an Omani banker said.

"Unless there is a distribution of wealth, which is currently in the hands of very

Reforms expose Algerian state banks to market

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria is exposing its banks, spoilt by three decades of state-ownership and easy money from the oil industry, to competition from the private sector.

Central Bank reforms have forced banks to change the way they raise money and lend to industry in order to end subsidised loans that were a mainstay of the centrally planned economy.

"The monetary and financial reforms constitute the framework for a radical change in the financing of Algeria's economy," central bank Governor Abdelwahab Keramane told Reuters recently.

The banking reforms in a country where 40,000 have died in civil strife are part of a wider effort to reform an economy where a quarter of the workforce is unemployed and which is 60 per cent dominated by the state sector.

The number of commercial banks, set at five last year, are about to double with the creation this year of four new banks.

A tenth bank is expected to be authorised soon and public mutual funds may soon be allowed to start banking activities for the first time.

The banks recently authorised for business are mostly privately-owned banks which are joint ventures between Algerian and foreign partners.

They include Union Bank, founded by Algerian

businessman Hadjres Brabimi with European partners El Baraka Bank, jointly created by the Saudi group El Baraka and Algeria's state-controlled Banque de l'Agriculture et du Developpement Rural (BADR) Societe Algero-Europeenne de Participation (Finalep), a joint venture between Algeria, France's Caisse Francaise de Developpement (CFD) and Banque Europeenne d'Investissements.

Mr. Keramane hopes foreign banks, scared away by Muslim militants killing foreigners, would open subsidiaries and branches in Algeria to promote "more competition" in his country's banking sector.

Algerian bankers said they have pursued a restructuring programme since last year to enable them to survive their more competitive market.

In the past, the state's banking system did not follow internationally recognised standards of prudent lending. Its main role was to grant unlimited credits to the country's state-owned firms which were largely broke. In return, banks were automatically refinanced by the central bank.

But since many banks have had to raise funds on the financial market. This followed a bail out by the government to restore their balance sheets under which the treasury bought 275 billion dinars (\$5.5 billion) of debt owed for the period before 1991 by state-owned firms.

New rules established by the central bank also prevent any bank from leading more than 25 per cent of funds — a ratio which is still well below international accepted standards.

Banks were also told to raise their capital. This process of strengthening their balance sheets is expected to be completed by the year end, central bank officials said.

But bankers say obeying the new rules has brought some restrictions for borrowers who could previously always rely on getting a loan from a bank.

"With the new rules, the old system is over, there is no room for laxity in allowing credits," the chairman of a leading Algerian bank told Reuters.

Lebanon parliament debates economic policy

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon's parliament on Monday began a three-day debate on the government's economic policy, including controversial price and tax rises that caused a confrontation between authorities and street protesters.

Parliamentary sources said they expected several MPs to criticise the government of billionaire Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri over the price

and tax increases and for quelling demonstrations protesting these measures.

Demonstrations in several cities during a general strike on Wednesday calling by unions to demand cancellation of the increases were foiled by the Lebanese army and police, who used force at times. At least 200 demonstrators were arrested.

Six people, including four policemen, were injured in the largest demonstration, in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon.

The parliament's debate was taking place as the trial of some 70 protesters, including four Palestinians, opened in Beirut and Sidon. The defendants are charged with breaking the official ban on

Ship lines lift U.S.-Gulf rates

DUBAI (R) — A group of shipping lines operating between the United States and the Middle East Gulf will introduce a new rate system and increase container rates on the route in August, Gulf shipping agents said on Monday.

\$150 for a standard 20 foot container (TEU) would also come into effect on August 1.

Shipping agents in the region said the current rate for a TEU from the U.S. ranged between \$2,100 and \$2,700.

The move follows an announcement earlier this month by the 15-member Line Europe Middle East rate agreement, pushing up the freight rate from Europe to United Arab Emirates (UAE) ports by between \$30 and \$150 per container effective end-September.

They said the group of some 14 lines, known as "89 hundred," had decided on the new simplified system which would classify cargo into about 250 categories.

A general rate increase of

Egypt-Italian firm to spend \$144m on gas fields

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian-Italian firm Petrobel (Beylaim Petroleum) will invest \$144 million to develop three recently discovered natural gas fields in the western desert and the Mediterranean, an oil ministry spokesman said on Monday.

The fields will begin producing next year a total of 4.3 million cubic metres of gas and 6,740 barrels of condensates per day, the ministry said.

Petrobel is a joint venture between the Egyptian government firm Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation and Italy's Agip Spa.

'Dubai under U.S. pressure not to buy gas from Iran'

NICOSIA (AFP) — The United States is putting pressure on Dubai to refuse to buy any gas produced at two Iranian offshore oil fields to be developed by France's total, the specialist weekly MEES said Monday.

"MEES understands that the U.S. has now made diplomatic representations to the ruler of Dubai in an effort to persuade the Dubai government not to enter into any arrangement to purchase Iranian gas made available as a result of the Sirri oilfields development venture," the weekly said.

It added that Dubai's response was not known.

But the sale of gas from the Sirri A and E fields in Dubai, in the United Arab Emirates, was "an important element in the project," the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said.

Total took over the contract to develop the fields after the U.S. firm abruptly pulled out when Washington slapped an embargo on Tehran in June.

After the new deal was signed with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), Washington appealed to Paris not to back French investments in Iran.

But in a reply published by MEES, the French foreign ministry said "total is a private company. Its activities in Iran are legitimate. The French state has therefore no legal means to forbid these activities."

It said the French state "did not intervene" in relations between oil companies and states.

Dubai is due to agree to buy part of the 14.1 million cubic metres of gas a day which will be produced under the accord to develop the two fields in the Gulf close to the maritime borders with the emirate.

Total is to invest \$600 million in setting up production at the two fields which have an expected capacity of 120,000 barrels per day (bpd).

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, JULY 25, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Consult with prominent persons today and gain their goodwill and fine ideas for gaining your fondest ambitions.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be willing to listen to what bigwigs have to suggest and find new and better ways of operating so that you can be more successful.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Confer with an expert in some field which interests you and you get fine ideas for gaining your ambitions.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Look to dynamic partners today for advice about personal matters which have been bothering you and then you know how best to gain right results.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You can advance in worldly matters by getting into civic and credit affairs and handling them expeditiously.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You are inspired to gain your finest ambitions today, so don't dilly-dally, go right after them. Get the results you anticipate.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) This is a good day to get home affairs improved considerably and make life happier later today. Do some entertaining.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Make it a point today to be with a dynamic associate and lay out that plan you have which can benefit you both.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have fine ideas and can add to your monetary abundance thereby, though it may mean added tasks.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have the judgment today and you can handle all things well and also be more creative in your activities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Make arrangements at home which can benefit all concerned. Then entertain your closest friends or family later tonight.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Go to a prominent person today and discuss a new interest with him or her which is worthwhile and sound.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HAABS
LUTEL
HECREY
COYPIL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: WITH

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: BLAZE SEIZE PLURAL NEARLY
Answer: What the projectionist considered the film break — A REEL PAIN

THE Daily Crossword by Matthew Higgins

ACROSS

- At a distance
- Wintery forecast
- Davenport
- Genie's home
- Exponent
- Like — of bricks
- Presidential race step, often
- Brick carrier
- Anjou
- Bristle
- Celt
- G — George
- Refutes
- Country or social end
- Smidgen
- Under water
- Sixties' rock musical
- Woody's kid
- Presidential race step, always
- Annoys
- Detest
- Ryan or Dunne
- Boozier's affliction
- Dynamic precursor
- Frying pan
- Begged
- Paperlike cloth
- More unsightly
- One: Ger.
- Mineral spring
- Presidential race item, once
- Repair roads
- Modules
- In good shape
- Standout
- Minimal
- Frank

DOWN

- Coleridge's sacred river
- Card game
- Surrounded by
- Speed letters
- Carousals
- Faithful
- Basin's companion
- Conger
- Precious possession
- Gown material
- Elevator man
- Lamb
- and the King of Siam
- Indifference
- Student's aid
- Sudden wind
- Extant
- Type of transit
- Gladstone name
- Sailing vessels
- Poem division
- Desiccated
- By oneself
- Blunder
- Supply for the future
- Heart chambers
- In good spirits
- Pitched
- Sheltered
- Most sensible
- Cheapskate
- Lists
- Stamping grounds abbr.?
- Fed. agt.
- Adore
- Director Kazan
- TV staple
- North or South
- So be it
- Feminine suffix
- Greek letter

Puzzle solved:

UMPS CLOD DEPP
ANOLE ROVE AXEL
STRAW EVEN FATA
WOTTENDERORFLAT
TRIO TOOTLE
CHEST BREAD
ALA ROUE SITKA
COURTORSOTLAND
TYLER BETS TAD
SUDDY TATAR
JESTER SEMI
SQUAREORCOUNTRY
AUNT AMUR SKATE
RIDE MINE ELLEN
SPAS STEW DEES

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Gannett to acquire Multimedia Inc.

ARLINGTON, Virginia (AFP) — Gannett Co. Inc., the nation's largest newspaper publisher, is to buy Multimedia Inc. for \$1.7 billion, both companies announced here Monday.

The boards of directors of both companies approved the merger on Sunday, pending Multimedia shareholder and regulatory approvals, the announcement said.

Gannett will pay Multimedia shareholders \$45.25 for each of Multimedia's 37,865,078 shares outstanding. In addition, Gannett will assume Multimedia's existing debt.

Gannett is a nationwide news and information company that publishes 82 daily newspapers, including USA Today. Gannett also operates 10 television stations, 11 radio stations and the largest outdoor advertising company in North America.

Multimedia is a diversified media company, with headquarters in Greenville, South Carolina. It publishes 11 daily and 49 non-daily newspapers, operates five network-affiliated television stations and two radio stations. Its cable television franchises serve more than 450,000 subscribers in five states.

Peanuts

WHY AM I STANDING OUT HERE IN THE RAIN?

BECAUSE YOU LOVE THE GAME.

I HATE THE GAME!

BECAUSE YOU LOVE THE CATCHER.

YOU GOT IT!

Andy Capp

SHE SHOULD BE IN A GOOD MOOD AFTER A DAY OF WORK SAT WITH HER FEET UP WATCHING TV ALL DAY AND ALL EVENING...

WOMEN! NEVER BELIEVE A DAY SHOULD PASS WITHOUT DOING SOMETHING

THUMP!

Mutt'n'Jeff

I TOLD YOU, MUTT, YOU SHOULDN'T GET IN THE HOUSE! HAVE MARRIED HIM!

MEN'S LIBERATION MOVEMENT

I WILL NOT!

I SHOULD HAVE LISTENED TO MY MOTHER THIRTY YEARS AGO!

GO AHEAD, BABY, SHE'S STILL TALKING!

I'M TELLING YOU, JEFF... WOMEN ARE TAKING OVER THE COUNTRY!

MAYBE WE SHOULD LET 'EM! IT'S NO GOOD ANYMORE ANYWAY

arket

ed by the central bank since may banks to raise funds in the capital market. The central bank has issued a bail out by the sheets under which it bought 275 million for the period by state-owned bank from lending 25 per cent of funds which is still well national accepted.

banks were also their capital. The of strengthening the sheets is expected by the central bank of

it bankers say the new rules has been a restrictions for who could previously rely on getting a bank.

With the new rules system is over, there is a for laxity in the," the chairman of Algerian banks.

By Glasberg

and the move to spend a quality time.

SCRAMBLED WORDS WITH AMO CARD MUSEY

HOW THE TACKLING THE WORKING DAY

arrange the interview the session after the end of the interview

PLURAL NOUNS: JORDAN

YOU GOT IT!

THUMP!

SELLING JEFF-N ARE GOWER UNTRY!

MAYBE WE SHOULD LET IT BE GOOD ANYWAY

Business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Sahab investors complain of bureaucracy

The Sahab Industrial City Investors' Society sent a memo to Director of the Customs Department Nathmi Abdullah urging him to offer the needed facilities to the investors. The investors called for eliminating bureaucratic measures at the city's customs centre saying such measures impede their work. The industrialists, who met with centre Director Mohammad Kheir, said some customs clearance procedures take more than 15 days to complete, and others, especially those involving testing of samples of imported products, are referred to the Amman Customs Centre. This, they said, prompts them to send samples of their products to be tested at the Aqaba laboratory (Al Ra'i).

A Saudi business delegation visited the Shafa Food Industries Company and the tomato paste factory in Mafrqa. The delegation discussed scopes of cooperation between the Saudi Al Rajihi company which produces glass bottles and the Jordanian companies. They also discussed the prospect of marketing Jordanian produce and processed food in Saudi Arabia (Al Ra'i).

The Jordanian Businessmen Association will Sunday host a meeting with a delegation representing the American Overseas Private Investors Corporation (OPIC) at the Marriott Hotel. More than 100 Jordanian businessmen are expected to attend the meeting (Al Ra'i).

The Department of Statistics started conducting a census of industrial establishments in the Kingdom. Department Director General Abdul Hadi Alaween, said the census will include all industrial facilities operating in Jordan in 1995. Mr. Alaween said the census will offer a complete list of industrial establishments in Jordan and will classify them according to economic activity, location and employees. He said the figures gathered will be updated annually. The census is expected to be completed in mid-October (Al Ra'i).

President of the Jordanian Hotels Association Fakhri Twal said occupancy rates in Jordanian hotels have improved significantly this year, but noted that hotel rooms are not fully reserved at the present, as some would believe. Mr. Twal said Jordanian hotels can presently take in more than 3,000 tourists. He said the occupancy rates were highest this year in April, which was the peak of the tourism season. He said these rates during April averaged 90-95 per cent. Mr. Twal pointed out that Jordan has a total of 7,735 hotel rooms and noted that several new hotels are expected to open before the end of the year. He said he new hotels will have 1,680 rooms. Other hotels which will be finished in 1997 will add 1,000 rooms to the total number, Mr. Twal said. (Al Ra'i).

Mobil drops objection to Enron Qatar deal

NICOSIA (R) — Mobil Corp has removed obstacles that could have prevented another U.S. company, Enron Corp. Inc., from undertaking a liquefied natural gas (LNG) project in Qatar, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said on Monday.

MEES said Mobil has agreed to waive an exclusivity clause which would have given it the right to preclude Enron from marketing LNG exports from a planned \$4 billion plant to be developed by Enron and the state Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (OGPC).

Mobil, also in partnership with OGPC, is already involved in a separate project, the Ras Laffan LNG Co. Ltd (Rasgas), to produce 10 million tonnes a year of LNG.

Under the terms of Ras Laffan joint venture Mobil had secured the right to block new LNG contracts from Qatar until its own exports reached 10 million tonnes a year, MEES said.

"The waiver by Mobil means that OGPC and Enron, who signed a letter of intent last January for the export of five million tonnes a year of LNG to India and the Mediterranean, can now start talks to finalise the agreement," MEES said.

Cyprus-based MEES said Mobil had insisted, in return for the waiver, that Enron should not encroach on markets that are already targeted by Mobil in India and the Mediterranean.

Under the reported understanding Enron would only be allowed to export five million tonnes a year of LNG through the project's 25 year span, with no allowance for further capacity increases.

"Exports to India would be limited to power and gasification projects in which Enron has ownership or participation. Exports to the Mediterranean are restricted to Israel and Jordan, with the specific exclusion of Turkey," MEES reported.

Mobil's decision was taken following talks in the Qatari capital Doha earlier this month between Mobil chief Lucio Noto and senior Qatari officials including the new emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani and Oil Minister Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah, MEES said.

Qatar has the third largest reserves of gas in the world and is developing three LNG projects.

Exports to the Mediterranean are restricted to Israel and Jordan, with the specific exclusion of Turkey," MEES reported.

Mobil's decision was taken following talks in the Qatari capital Doha earlier this month between Mobil chief Lucio Noto and senior Qatari officials including the new emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani and Oil Minister Abdullah Bin Hamad Al Attiyah, MEES said.

Qatar has the third largest reserves of gas in the world and is developing three LNG projects.

Lebanon urged to scrap price hikes

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese members of parliament criticised Prime Minister Rafiq Al Hariri's government on Monday for ordering recent price and tax rises and quelling demonstrations which broke out in protest against the measures.

Opening a three-day debate on the government's economic policy, several MPs said Mr. Hariri scrap the measures which led to a crisis between the government and trade unions.

Demonstrations in several cities during a one-day general strike called by unions last Wednesday to demand the

cancellation of the increases were foiled by army and police, who at times used force to break up the protests.

Six people, including four policemen, were injured during the scuffles and about 200 demonstrators were arrested. Seventy-one of the protesters stood trial on Monday charged with breaking a ban on demonstrations.

"We are living in very dangerous moments. I demand the government to contain the crisis before it mushrooms, causing an explosion," leftist MP Zaher Al Khatib told the House.

Mr. Khatib and other MPs urged the government to freeze the main price increase and bone of contention between it and the unions — a 38 per cent rise in the price of petrol.

"There is a crisis in social and living conditions that the country has been suffering for a while and which can no longer be ignored," MP Issam Nemaan told the 128-seat House.

"The crisis would not have reached this level of intensity and complication had it not been for the government's shortcomings in facing it," added Mr. Nemaan.

Saudi Arabia embarks on isolated oil project

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's Shaybah oilfield project in the forbidding desert of the empty quarter shows the Saudi target of maintaining its oil production capacity is not getting any easier, industry sources in Saudi Arabia said.

State oil company Saudi ARAMCO has committed itself to developing the high quality crude reservoirs at the Shaybah field by the turn of the decade to maintain the country's capacity to produce 10 million barrels per day (bpd) of oil.

The drawback is Shaybah's remoteness, located in the isolated and environmentally hostile Empty Quarter that straddles the borders with the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

"The field is in the middle of nowhere... there is simply nothing there," one Western oilman in the kingdom said.

Others say that the challenges may be difficult as those experienced in Alaska and the deep waters of the North Sea.

Vehicle dirt trails to the field are quickly eroded by strong desert winds while a few scattered communities live under summer temperatures in the upper 40 degrees Celsius and freezing winter months, oil sources in the kingdom said.

Shaybah, south-east of the country's capital Riyadh, is 600 kilometres away from the nearest major oil plant.

"It's a very harsh environment. The Empty Quarter is covered with mountains of sand," Mohammad Al Sahlah, an economics professor

at Saudi Arabia's King Fahd University said.

The field has been known to ARAMCO managers since 1968 but they could not go ahead pending a settlement of the largely unmarked border with the UAE, which was only agreed this year.

Other crucial factors that had deterred managers from giving the project the green light were Shaybah's isolation and projected development costs.

ARAMCO finally gave its approval for the \$2.5 billion project in May with the aim of producing 500,000 bpd of light, high premium crude oil by the year 2000.

Industry sources say that oil from Shaybah will be needed to compensate for declining output at part of the super-giant Ghawar field, the largest in the world, within five years.

Oil has been pumped from Ghawar since 1951.

Shaybah also fits into ARAMCO's marketing strategy of maximising its sales of "lighter" crudes, which can obtain more money in the market, while honouring its OPEC quota.

Central of the Shaybah project is the laying of a 300 km, marl (fine granite) road that

will link the field to the Saudi coastal cities of Dhahran and Al Khobar and allow drilling rigs to be transported to the field site.

"The road is the key to the whole project. It's going to be a tough job in miserable conditions," an oil industry source in Saudi Arabia told Reuters.

Sources said that work on the road, which will be done by Saudi firms under three separate contracts, is scheduled to start in the last quarter of this year and is expected to take a year to build.

only then can drilling equipment and personnel be moved in.

An existing air strip at Shaybah will be extended and cleared to allow planes to bring light supplies such as instrumentation to the field.

Saudi ARAMCO has awarded the U.S. firm Ralph M. Parsons the project management contract for Shaybah and Parsons is expected to invite international companies to bid for work early next year, the source said.

This will involve the construction of three gas/oil separation plants and a 600-km pipeline.

Israeli minister limbers up for budget battle

By Julian Ozanne

Israeli ministers have been told they must accept spending cuts or face the prospect of tax increases in an election year.

In an interview, Avraham Sochat, the finance minister, who is already facing a storm of ministerial protests, said he was determined to reduce further the country's budget deficit.

This was critical to easing Israel's balance of payments deficit — expected to reach \$4.4 billion this year and increasing private saving in the economy.

He said cuts in expenditure were critical if the budget deficit reduction law is to be met at a time when the army was demanding significant extra money to fund the costs of troop redeployment and construction of by-pass roads in the occupied West Bank as part of the forthcoming peace accords with Palestinians.

"I prefer to cut expenditure than raise taxes although I know it will be a big problem with ministers and with the Knesset (parliament)," he said. "It is not only for political reasons but it is much better for the economy to shrink the volume of our budget."

Under the Budget Law's deficit reduction provision, the deficit must gradually drop each year. Mr. Sochat has presided over a reduction from 6.2 per cent of GDP in 1992 to this year's 2.75 per cent.

Although he refused to specify exact figures, Treasury officials said the minister was looking for cuts of up to 2 per cent — about 2-4 billion shekels — to come mostly from bid spending ministries such as education, transport and defence.

Cabinet discussions on the 1996 budget must be completed by the end of next month and officials said Mr. Sochat was making a pre-emptive strike against the up to 2.5 billion shekels demanded by the army for the costs of redeployment.

Mr. Sochat said the treasury had already allocated 600 million shekels for redeployment this year and new demands by the army would have to be analysed to see whether they could be spread over several years or be funded by the existing defence budget rather than an additional allocation from the treasury.

But the peace process will not be stopped or delayed because of budgetary problems," the minister said.

Mr. Sochat's firm fiscal stance follows the International Monetary Fund's recent highly critical report of Israel's macro economic policy. The fund said the widening of the current account deficit and the marked decline in private sector savings posed long-term threats to sustainable economic growth. It criticised the "lack of ambition" in the 1995 budget and urged the government to control the public spending tightly, with a view to overperforming on the budget deficit target and presenting a 1996 budget geared towards increasing overall public sector savings.

Although the government is easily capable of funding its current account deficit at the moment from U.S. loan guarantees, Israeli bonds and future recourse to the European and American U.S. bond market, Mr. Sochat appeared to agree with the need for measures to be taken now to reduce public consumption and increase private savings — Financial Times.

Financial Markets				
U.S. Dollar in International Markets				
Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close	Date: 24/7/95	
Sterling Pound	1.5440	1.5558**		
Deutsche Mark	1.3860	1.3851		
Swiss Franc	1.1550	1.1537**		
French Franc	4.8215	4.8105**		
Japanese Yen	88.53	88.07		
European Currency Unit	1.3360	1.3375**		

Precious Metals				
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz
Gold	386.55	7.50	Silver	15.22

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin		
Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6990
Sterling Pound	1.1121	1.1168
Deutsche Mark	0.5025	0.5050
Swiss Franc	0.6026	0.6056
French Franc	0.1446	0.1453
Japanese Yen	0.7595	0.7594
Dutch Guilder	0.4454	0.4506
Swedish Krona	0.0455	0.0457
Italian Lira	0.0455	0.0457
Belgian Franc	0.0455	0.0457

Other Currencies		
Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.6330	1.6450
Lebanese Lira	0.042250	0.042250
Kuwaiti Dinar	0.1855	0.1862
Qatari Riyal	2.3600	2.3600
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2160
Omani Riyal	1.8010	1.8200
UAE Dirham	0.1888	0.1901
Greek Drachma	0.2735	0.3280
Cypriot Pound	1.5135	1.5950

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Monday.			
U.S. \$1.00 costs	1.3574/84	Canadian dollar	1.3828/38
	1.3498/08	Deutsche marks	1.5498/08
	1.1520/30	Dutch guilders	28.44/48
	4.8035/85	Swiss francs	1593.0/8.0
	87.51/61	Belgian francs	7.1375/75
	6.1500/50	French francs	6.3833/83
	\$1.5964/74	Italian lire	1.5964/74
One sterling	\$386.45/386.95	Japanese yen	
One ounce of gold		Swedish crowns	
		Norwegian crowns	
		Danish crowns	

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Uruguay beats Brazil, wins Copa America

Uruguay success masks mix-ups

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP) — It didn't have the impact of the 1950 World Cup final. Yet it meant much to Uruguay.

Having seen its national side founder in recent years, Sunday's 5-3 penalty shoot-out victory over Brazil to win the Copa America was a welcome sign.

"Uruguay needed this victory so much," coach Hector Nunez said. "It was a great win when you consider that we beat a team of outstanding players."

Uruguay won the first World Cup in 1930 on home soil. It then upset Brazil 2-1 in the 1950 title game before 200,000 in Rio de Janeiro's famed Maracana Stadium.

But in recent years Uruguay's fortunes had slipped. It didn't even qualify for the 1994 World Cup.

In recent years the once powerful South American soccer nation has sat back in envy and watched neighbours Argentina and Brazil dominate world soccer.

Four-time world champion Brazil, which hasn't lost since falling to Bolivia on July 25, 1993 in World Cup qualifying 2-3 games ago — was considered favourite to win its fifth South American championship.

However Uruguay matched Argentina's record of 14

Copa America titles and maintained its record of having won all the continental tournaments it has staged on home soil.

"We're good losers," said Brazilian coach Mario Zagallo, who added that his team wasted good opportunities to win the game in regulation time. "But all credit to Uruguay who played a tough game."

Uruguay's triumph came after the 90 minutes had ended in a tense 1-1 draw. Goalkeeper Fernando Alvez dived to his right to save Brazil's third penalty from striker Tulio to set up the victory.

Enzo Francescoli, Roberto Carlos, Pablo Bengoechea, and Zinho all converted their chances to leave the score 2-2 in the shootout. Jose Herrera gave Uruguay the lead and Alvez then stopped Tulio's attempt. Alvaro Gutierrez increased Uruguay's lead and after Dunga scored to make it 4-3, Sergio Martinez clinched the victory on his attempt.

Brazil, which eliminated defending champion Argentina on penalties in the quarterfinals, had the better of the first half in which the skilful trio of Edmundo, Zinho and Dunga contained the physical Uruguayans by slowing the pace of the game.

Brazil opened the scoring in the 30th minute when

Edmundo chipped the ball over the Uruguayan defence and Tulio chested it into the net from close range.

Uruguay equalised in the 49th minute with a spectacular goal from substitute Pablo Bengoechea, who curled a 20-metre free kick into the top left-hand corner after having been on the pitch for just four minutes.

Zagallo said his young team did not miss star strikers Bebeto and Romario and that he had taken comfort from a string of impressive performances.

"It's a good team which has a really great future," he said, adding that his next goal was to win the 1996 soccer tournament in the Olympic Games.

Lineups

Brazil: Taffarel, Jorginho, Aldair, Andre Cruz, Roberto Carlos, Dunga, Cesar Sampaio, Zinho, Juninho (Beto, 78th minute), Edmundo, Tulio.

Uruguay: Fernando Alvez, Gustavo Mendez, Jose Herrera, Eber Moas, Tabare Silva (Edgardo Adinolfi, 33rd), Diego Dorta (Pablo Bengoechea, 46th), Alvaro Gutierrez, Gustavo Poyet, Enzo Francescoli, Daniel Fonseca (Sergio Martinez, 46th), Marcelo Otero.

Referee (Arturo Brizio, Mexico).

MONTEVIDEO (R) — Uruguay may have been delighted at their Copa America triumph but few other people were happy with a competition which suffered several blows to its credibility.

Argentina cried robbery after they were bundled out of the competition following a hugely controversial refereeing decision.

The final on Sunday was played on a pitch which might have been considered an insult to amateur soccer players, let alone South America's top ball-playing artists.

Empty stadiums provided an often melancholic atmosphere at many games.

The historic Centenario Stadium, venue for the first World Cup final in 1930, had been intended as the showpiece of the tournament. But the part of the stadium most seen on television pictures beamed around the world — the pitch — was not something for organisers to be proud of.

Brazil were clearly hindered by it in the final while even the hosts, who have a more physical style, were unhappy.

"It's like a swamp that eats up your legs," said Uruguay defender Eber Moas.

Argentina were even less amused with the goal that Brazil striker Tulio scored against them in the 80th minute of their quarter-final to salvage a 2-2 draw for the world champions.

Tulio appeared to control the ball with his hand but referee Alberto Tejada waved play on and Brazil went on to win on penalties.

"It was robbery," said Argentina coach Daniel Passarella. Striker Abel Balbo said: "That incident will damage the prestige of the tournament in Europe."

The United States, who surpassed most people's expectations by finishing fourth, were also upset at the referees.

"They are incredibly arro-

gant," said striker Eric Wynalda. "They say things like 'Go home, Gringo'."

Others complained about a ruling which dispensed with bans for players accumulating two yellow cards. Instead, their teams were fined for each card received. Critics said the policy let offenders off the hook.

Most countries brought full-strength squads to the Copa America, a sharp contrast to 1993 in Ecuador when the tournament appeared to serve merely as a warm-up for the World Cup qualifiers which followed.

This time the only major absentee was Chile's Ivan Zamorano, who said he wanted a rest after a tough European season with Real Madrid.

Yet many of the stars who came found themselves playing in empty stadiums.

Local commentators blamed inflated ticket prices — the cheapest seats cost \$30 — for the poor turnout. Not even the host nation could fill the terraces.

Uruguay's semifinal with Colombia was played before just 28,000 fans in the 75,000-capacity Centenario Stadium.

"Football is about the public taking part and having a good time, about producing a huge spectacle," said disappointed Ecuador coach Francisco Maturana during the first round. "The fans are an integral part of the spectacle."

"But television often determines when a game is played, even if the conditions are adverse for the players."

Yet the fans who could not afford to go to watch the games in person could not see them on television either.

Television companies were banned from beaming games to the area in which they were being played, which prevented the entire population of Montevideo — home to two thirds of the country's people — from seeing Uruguay's matches.



Enzo Francescoli, captain of the Uruguayan national soccer selection lifts the Copa America 1995 up in the air after his team beat Brazil in the final 6-4 in Montevideo Uruguay (AFP photo)



Brazilian soccer player Tulio (centre) scores Brazil's first goal after receiving the ball from Edmundo (right) July 23 at the Centenario stadium of Montevideo, Uruguay (AFP photo)

American soccer future depends on pro league

MALDONADO, Uruguay (R) — If there is one thing that United States soccer international Eric Wynalda cannot stand it is baseball.

Wynalda was one of the heroes of the United States' remarkable Copa America run, scoring three goals in five games as the Americans progressed to the semifinals before losing to Brazil.

He was delighted with the team's performance and sees a bright future for the sport in the United States. But he does not want to be lumbered with the job of converting masses of American sports fans to soccer.

"There are enough soccer fans in America for us not to feel obliged about convincing baseball and football fans to start going to soccer matches," he said.

"Frankly, if they want to sit in a stadium for three hours and watch baseball, that's up to them, if somebody thinks baseball is better than soccer, then we don't want them."

"I played it at school. You spend three and a half hours in the field waiting for the ball to come to you. When I had a catch, I would slow up and make a diving catch as there was nothing else to do. I liked hockey more. You can hit people and get stuck in. It's my ideal."

Wynalda is part of a generation who are seen as more than just national team soccer players.

Many people consider them to be ones who can finally, after decades of previous attempts, help establish soccer as a major sport in the United States.

It is a responsibility that Wynalda is not happy with. "We don't want to feel like we have an obligation to our country to do something for them," he said. "We're doing this for us. If people want to support us we won't let them down."

Other players such as central defender Alexi Lalas, who has already decided to leave Italian first division side Padova at the end of next season to join the Major League Soccer, are more at home in the pioneer role.

"If the league is going to benefit so many people by giving them the chance to be professional soccer players, then I want to be part of it," Lalas said.

"As an American soccer player, your responsibilities are way beyond what you do for the 90 minutes. A lot of players like to be pioneers and ambassadors, educating people about the game and promoting the sport."

Lalas believes that the league is crucial for soccer to advance in America and make sure that the enormous progress made over the last two years is not simply washed down the drain.

Victory over England two years ago was followed by the U.S. reaching the second round of the World Cup which they staged last year.

But the players consider this year's performances in the U.S. Cup and now the Copa America better still.

They defeated Mexico 4-0 during the U.S. Cup, while in the Copa America they beat Argentina 3-0, Chile 2-1 and Mexico, again, this time on penalties before losing 1-0 to the world champions.

Hosting the World Cup was another huge boost, the players say.

Players are now recognised in the street in the United States, something which would have been unheard of two years ago.

"People come up to me at airports and say 'Hey, aren't you that soccer guy?'" Lalas said.

"People are so much more educated about soccer than I used to be. When I came out of school, being a professional soccer player was not even

in my dreams."

Wynalda commented: "It's strange that in Germany I used to be recognised everywhere but when I went back to my home town for vacation, nobody knew who I was. Now that's changing."

But there is still no professional league.

"There are hundreds of people out there doing things they don't want to do who could have been professional soccer players," Lalas said.

"We're wasting so much talent because we don't have a professional league. Our squad has 22 good players but apart from that there's no body."

"Brazil on the other hand have enough players for three or four national teams."

The league is due to begin in March with 10 sides, all owned by the league which will be responsible for signing players and then distributing them among the clubs.

"If we can have five quality games every weekend and make it affordable for the public, I think it will get exposure," Lalas said.

But some players fear organisers are leaving everything too late. The league, originally due to be up and running before the World Cup, has already been postponed several times.

"From what I can see, the teams have no names, they have no coaches and they have no players," said midfielder Thomas Dooley, who is based with German club Schalke.

"You need promotion and marketing. They should pay for somebody to come from Europe, from a soccer country."

Lalas believes that many people outside soccer are hoping for the league to fall flat on its face.

"It has become fashionable to be anti-soccer and to be pessimistic about the future of the game. Most of the



Alexi Lalas

people that are like that feel threatened by it," he said.

"But I don't care about them. It's not my fault if young players realise that soccer is a simple game, that you don't have to be strong or tall. It's what young peo-

ple want to do with their time."

Wynalda added: "In baseball you can be a mediocre player and nobody will notice. That doesn't happen in soccer. You can't hide on a soccer pitch."

Gunnell given vote of confidence

LONDON (AFP) — Sally Gunnell received a vote of confidence from Britain's world championship selectors here on Monday.

Gunnell was granted extra time to prove she is fit enough to represent Britain in the 4x400m relay in Gothenburg after abandoning her comeback in Sheffield on Sunday.

She aggravated a thigh muscle injury warming up for a 400m race and will try again in Germany this weekend.

Gunnell, who has not competed for 10 months because of achilles tendon and heel problems, previously ruled herself out of defending the 400m hurdles title.

Selectors' spokesman Tony Ward said: "They decided it was right to retain her in the relay squad and see what happens."

"If she is fit enough she will be a great asset to the squad — and as women's team captain."

Seven athletes have been added to the team largely on the strength of recent performances — and there could be more later this week.

The seven are Adrian Patrick (400), David Strang (800), Kevin McKay (1500), Andy Tulloch (110 hurdles), high jumper Brendan Reilly, shot put Mark Proctor and decathlete Simon Shirley.

Another four who were asked to prove their fitness will be monitored by head coach Malcolm Arnold to make sure there are no reactions to injuries.

They are Jason John (100), Peter Crampton (400 hurdles), Jacqui Agyepong (100 hurdles) and triple jumper Ashia Hansen.

German, Portuguese federations rebuked

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — FIFA censured the German and Portuguese soccer federations Monday for annulling matches over referee's decisions and warned the two countries could be banned from the World Cup if they do it again.

FIFA's disciplinary committee ordered the German Soccer Association to declare the June 11 match between Leipzig and Chemnitz null and void. The German had nullified the result of the match and ordered a replay because of an alleged mistake by the referee.

"The German FA has been warned of the disciplinary sanctions they risk if they repeat such action, which could even include being banned from the FIFA World Cup," a FIFA statement said.

The Portuguese federation received an identical warning for annulling the April game between Benfica and Sporting Club. FIFA ordered the Portuguese to validate the original result.

"The disciplinary committee based its judgment on the grounds that the annulment of a match and the repudiation of a referee's factual decision by these two associations was an infringement of FIFA's rules and instructions," the statement said.

"The disciplinary committee also concluded that the same sanctions will be applied in future to any national association which disregards the principle that a referee's factual decisions are irrevocable."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARRIF & TAMMAM HIRSHI

GET THE ENEMY TO HELP

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH
♠ J 8 6
♥ K 10 9 4
♦ K 10 3
♣ 10 9 8

WEST
♠ 10 8
♥ 6 2
♦ Q 7 6 4
♣ 7 6 5 4 2

EAST
♠ K Q 8 7 4 2
♥ Void
♦ K 8 5 2
♣ K Q J 3

SOUTH
♠ A 4
♥ A Q 8 7 5 3
♦ A J 9
♣ A

The bidding:
South West North East
2♠ Pass 2♠ 2♠
3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass
4♠ Pass 5♠ Pass
6♥ Pass 6♥ Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠
Faced with a choice of a one or a two-way finesse the average player prefers the simple finesse — there's no "guess" involved. The accomplished technician, however, would rather be confronted with a two-way finesse. As the play unfolds, declarer may learn which defender holds the key card and, in some instances, the finesse can be avoided altogether. With a completely flat hand, North did not hold quite enough for

a positive response to South's demand bid. However, when South indicated interest with the spade cue-bid, North cooperated by showing the diamond control and that was all the encouragement South needed to contract for a small slam.

West duly led the ten of partner's suit and dummy's holding in the suit provided declarer with an extra chance that was soon to be explained. The opening lead was covered by the jack and queen and won with the ace. The ace of clubs was cashed, dummy was entered with a trump and a club was ruffed.

Another trump lead to the king drew the last enemy fang and at the same time set the stage for the final act. The ten of clubs was led from the table and, when East covered with the queen, declarer discarded the spade loser!

Stuck with the lead, East had a choice of losing options. A club return would permit declarer to ruff in one hand while discarding a diamond from the other. A spade would set up the jack for a discard and a diamond would solve declarer's problem in that suit. Either way, the club trick was the only one the defenders could score. Making six odd.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL:634144 PHILADELPHIA Harrison Ford with William Dafe & Anne Archer in Clear & Present Danger Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:699238 PLAZA Kamal Shinnawi & Ilham Shahin in Easy to Get (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 8:30, 10:30	CINEMA TEL:677420 CONCORD CONCORD "1" MAVERICK Shows: 3:15, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" BABY'S Day Out Shows: 12:30, 5:00	AMMOUN THEATRE TEL:618274 - 618275 MUSA HIJAZIN "sumaa" IN Hi Citizen daily at 8:30 pm written & directed by Mohammed Shawaqfeh	Nabil Al Mashhal Theatre TEL:675571 Presents KABARET Abbeer Issa Ghassan Mashini with Amer khamash, Khalil Jahmani, Mohammad Hussein and Issam Al Hanbali The theatre closes on Monday Performances start at 8:30 p.m.	Nabil & Hisham's Tel:625155 AHLAN THEATRE presents (Ahlan Tatbee) Welcome Normalisation Shows start at 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call tel. 625155 Amman
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Little League teams head for Poland, Germany

By Roufan Nahhas
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Amman Little League will participate in the European Baseball Tournament which will take place in Poland and Germany in the period July 28-Aug. 5.

Two teams, which will represent Jordan, will leave Amman Tuesday, the seniors for Poland and the majors team for Germany. The winning teams will qualify to the tournament's finals which will be staged in the U.S.

Malek Salem, the baseball commissioner, said that the teams are ready for the competition.

"The teams had been practising for this event and we are going to play our best but we don't give any promises," said Salem in an interview with the Jordan Times.

The seniors team consists of 14 players aged 11-12 years and the majors team also consists of 14 players, of whom 9 are Jordanians, aged 13-15 years.

Coach Andy Kerr who will accompany the seniors team on the trip to Poland said that he hopes to do better this time "as we have more chances to win."

Jordan which participated in the tournament several times never made

it to the finals. Just like any sport in Jordan baseball is facing some problems.

"Baseball is growing here in Jordan as we have 250 people playing this game but we have some problems in what concerns the fields, as we use the American school field which is the only one in Jordan," coach Kerr said.

Salem noted that the team was facing financial problems and thanks to Her Royal Highness Princess Basma and her generous contributions the team managed to overcome some difficulties.

Escorting the team on their trip is Marilyn Kerr, the team's mom whose job is to be there for the players in case they need someone close beside them. "I will be holding the first aid case, some icepacks and some warm smiles so they can feel close to their families," Kerr said.

Eleven-year-old Erica Gustafson the only girl on the team said that she felt really excited to be on the team.

"Yes, I am really happy to be here with the team and what makes it more exciting is that I am the only girl in the team," she said proudly.

Another player, Sa'ed Kurdi, said his team is ready to play "and we will give them our best ball."

U.S. advances to Fed Cup final

WILMINGTON, North Carolina (R) — The U.S. Fed Cup team used doubles victory from Gigi Fernandez and Lindsay Davenport to edge France 3-2 in their Fed Cup World Group semifinal late Sunday.

The two Americans, who had never teamed before, beat Julie Halard and Nathalie Tauziat 6-1 7-6 (7-2) after the two countries had split two singles matches both on Sunday and Saturday.

"This is what you live for," said Fernandez, whose doubles court savvy complemented Davenport's strength. "The key to playing doubles well is to have good communication with your partner. It also doesn't hurt to have good partners with big serves."

Fernandez, the world's fourth-ranked doubles player, is 17-2 in Fed Cup doubles competition. She has 10 Grand Slam titles and an Olympic gold medal, with five different partners.

"My confidence was very high after seeing the way Gigi and Lindsay communicated before the match," said U.S. team captain Billie Jean King.

Earlier, in the day's first match, Davenport outlasted an immobile Mary Pierce, scoring 56 winners in a 6-3 4-6 6-0 win over the world's fourth-ranked singles player, who was hampered by a foot infection. Pierce needed two injections Sunday morning to ease the pain.

"There wasn't much I could do with her serve," Pierce lamented. "She didn't seem to make any mistakes. She was very aggressive throughout the match. I was impressed."

But Halard kept French hopes alive by coming back to win 12 of the last 15 games against Fernandez, 1-6, 7-5, 6-1.

After charging to a quick 6-1 3-1 lead, Fernandez started to cramp in her left foot, reducing her mobility and stamina. Halard capitalized, winning six of the next eight games for a dramatic comeback victory.

"I told her not to sink," French coach Francoise Durr said. "She had nothing to lose, and little by little she got back in the match."

Other collated women's Fed Cup tennis results this weekend:

In the other World Group semifinals in Santander Spain beat Germany 3-2:

Conchita Martinez beat Anke Huber 6-2, 2-6, 6-0. Arantxa Sanchez Vicario lost to Sabine Hack 6-4, 6-2, 3-6. Sanchez Vicario beat Huber 6-3, 1-6, 6-2.

Martinez beat Hack 6-0, 6-0.

Virginia Ruano/Maria Antonia Sanchez lost to Huber/Claudia Porwik 6-2, 6-2.

The final will be held in Spain on Nov. 25-26.



CHINA VS. CAMBODIA: Cambodian team from Shenzhen and the Cambodian scorekeepers peer out of hole on scoreboard national team. China beat the Cambodians 4-1 July 23 during the first international soccer match in 20 years between a visiting Chinese (AFP photo)

Patient Villeneuve captures Cleveland Indycar race title

CLEVELAND, Ohio (R) — A patient Jacques Villeneuve took advantage of his rivals' mistakes to win the Cleveland Indycar race late Sunday in a wild race finale.

With just two laps remaining in the 90-lap race at Burke Lakefront Airport, the 24-year-old Canadian slipped past Americans Michael Andretti and Bryan Herta for his fourth win in the series this year, extending his points lead to 138 over American Bobby Rahal (106 points), who finished fourth.

Villeneuve, driving a Reynard Ford-Cosworth averaged 130.113 miles per hour (209.391 kph) to beat Herta's Reynard Ford-Cosworth by 1.157 seconds. Jimmy Vasser of the United States was third in another Reynard Ford-Cosworth.

Villeneuve outlasted some of his faster competition by using restraint and then aggression to grab the victory.

Herta mistakenly overtook Andretti in a caution area, on lap 89, and had to slow to avoid a penalty.

"That gave Jacques the chance to pass us both," said Andretti, whose engine was misfiring slowing him also.

When I saw Bryan get by Michael I knew they'd both have to slow down in the chicane. If Bryan hadn't slowed down it would have been a difficult time taking the lead," said Villeneuve.

Polesitter Gil de Ferran of Brazil dominated most of the race, building a 10-second lead before a full course caution was waved on lap 71.

After a chaotic restart, Villeneuve, son of Formula One

legend Gilles Villeneuve, thought he might have a chance to improve his position, fifth. "I didn't know it would get that wild, but when everyone gets that close anything could happen," he said.

When the green flag was waved, on lap 76, American Robby Gordon jumped from third to the first, then fell back to third after coming out of turn one.

As Gil de Ferran, Andretti and Gordon came around again they went three-wide into that first turn. Gil de Ferran went to the outside, Andretti in the middle, and Gordon on the inside.

Andretti braked, letting Gil de Ferran pass him. Ferran made contact with Gordon. As they slowed Andretti took the lead.

Gil de Ferran was eliminated when he tangled with American Scott Pruett, who was running two laps behind the leaders. When Herta passed Andretti, under the yellow, and had to lift off the accelerator to avoid a penalty it allowed Villeneuve to make a legal pass for the lead.

Villeneuve said he had to stay patient when he wasn't fighting for the lead. "Sometimes you have to hang in there. When you are leading the points you can't make stupid mistakes," he said.

After the race ended, Andretti and Gordon bumped their race cars resulting in a \$10,000 fine for Gordon and probation for both until the end of the season for unsportsmanlike conduct.

The next race will be at Michigan International Speedway on July 30.

World Cup goal not in, say British scientists

LONDON (R) — British scientists say they have new proof that the controversial goal which helped England win the 1966 World Cup final against West Germany should have been disallowed.

The Swiss referee, after consultation with the Soviet linesman, judged the ball had crossed the line and awarded a goal after Geoff Hurst's shot hit the crossbar and bounced down, putting England 3-2 in front in extra-time.

Now scientists at Oxford University have used a new technique — uncalibrated vision — to show the shot did not cross the line.

Dr. Andrew Zisserman and Dr. Ian Reid of the university's Department of Engineering Science spent hours studying film of the incident to plot the exact path of the ball.

"There is no doubt in our minds. Whichever way you look at it the ball did not cross the line," Zisserman said.

Hurst went on to score another goal, completing the only hat-trick in a World Cup final and giving England a 4-2 victory.

The new technique aims to provide rapid analysis of future sporting controversies, as well as help investigators analyse video footage of plane crashes and let builders construct properties from photographs rather than old-fashioned plans.

Jordan loses opening match to Philippines

From Aileen Bannayan in Shizuoka



JORDAN'S national women's basketball team, playing in their first Asian championship, Monday lost 79-41 to the Philippines on the opening day of the 16th Asian Basketball Championship for Women, currently underway in Shizuoka, Japan.

The 12 competing teams are divided into two levels. Level A groups China, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan. Jordan is playing in Level B with Hong Kong, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand.

The victory by Level B favorites, the Philippines, was no surprise, but scoring was close at first. The Philippines took the lead by fast breaks and three-point throws. Jordan's Andeira Qasieh and Rana Hussein excelled in rebounding,

but the team's usual top scorer, Jumana Salti, did not score throughout the first half which Philippines won 36-17.

The Kingdom's team played a better second half but exhaustion was evident on the players who reached Shizuoka only nine hours before the match, thus missing the opening ceremony which was held Sunday evening. The team left Amman Thursday, and stayed in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for two days. They reached Shizuoka after a four-hour bus ride from Tokyo.

Jordan's Jumana Salti played the second half with four fouls, while her teammates lacked effective finishing. Subair Makusi missed the match with an aggravated knee injury which re-occurred at warmup.

Jehane Abdelnour and Hala Muheisen enabled the team to break the Philippines' press defence with excellent ball-handling while most of their teammates were held to low scoring.

Abdelnour was the top scorer with 12 points. Other players: Hind Ghouris, Hala Muheisen, Rana Hussein, Jumana Salti scored 5, Tala Mauge scored 4, Andeira Qasieh scored three and Rania Dajani two.

Jordan will next play Malaysia Tuesday.

Other results came as follows:

LEVEL B
Thailand - Malaysia 69-47
Hong Kong - Indonesia 61-54 (in overtime)

LEVEL A
Japan - Taiwan 97-75
China - Kazakhstan 156-42

Agassi beats heat, Edberg to win Washington Classic

WASHINGTON (R) — World number one Andre Agassi survived the heat, an upset stomach and a remarkable comeback by Stefan Edberg to win the ATP Washington Classic late Sunday with a 6-4 2-6 7-5 victory.

After taking a 5-2 lead in the third set, Agassi began to feel the effects of temperatures as high as 110 degrees Fahrenheit (48 Celsius).

Agassi vomited before Edberg began his service game, and within minutes the Swede had come back to tie the deciding set at 5-5.

But after a five-minute delay while Agassi ran to the locker room and vomited again, the American came back to win the last two games and his first tournament since becoming the top-ranked men's tennis player on April 10.

"I more or less felt like I was going to have a heat stroke," Agassi said. "I felt late in the first set and it got worse in the second. I managed to get through and got an early lead in the third, but then I ended up having to tough him out and it got pretty rough out there."

Edberg was playing in his third successive three-set afternoon match while Agassi entered the final having not dropped a set in his four evening matches.

The hard work may have helped Edberg, who forced Agassi to serve 12 points at

5-5 before the Swede pushed a forehand wide to lose the game.

But serving at 5-6, Edberg hit two unforced errors to dig himself a hole too deep to come back from.

"I'm sorry I missed a few easy shots in the last game. It would have been nice to end it in a tiebreaker," Edberg said.

After losing the first set, Edberg broke Agassi in the first and fifth games of the second set to take a 4-1 lead. Facing an uphill battle and beginning to wilt in his first afternoon match of the tournament, Agassi decided to save his energy for the final set.

"When Stefan got a couple of breaks in the second set I had a choice to make — go for it and try to beat him in the second (set) feeling like you may have nothing left for the third."

"Or possibly spend that set trying to get your feet under you, trying to get your mind back, cool down a little bit and try to save your energy for a little burst in the third. That is what I felt like I did," Agassi said.

The strategy seemed to pay off at first, as Agassi jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the final set and had two chances to



Andre Agassi

break Edberg again and take a commanding 4-0 advantage. But Edberg hung in, serving an ace to get the score back to deuce and then winning the next two points to stay in the match.

"When you are down, you've got to do something. If you keep doing the same thing you're going to be out of it," Edberg said. "I played a few good shots and got sort of a second wind. There is always a way back."

For winning the tournament, Agassi received \$90,000.

Olajuwon to join dream team

MUNICH, Germany (AFP) — Nigerian basketball star Hakeem Olajuwon, who led the Houston Rockets to the National Basketball Association (NBA) title in 1994, was cleared to play for the American "Dream Team" in next year's Atlanta Olympics by the International Federation of Basketball (FIBA). Borislav Stankovic, FIBA's secretary general, said that the seven foot giant's case was an exceptional one and in those instances it was within his power to grant him permission. Stankovic had consulted FIBA's commission for legal matters and eligibility meeting in Athens before making his decision.

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AUTOTECH hold training sessions

The Automotive & Spare Parts Technical Co. LTD. (AUTOTECH) is currently conducting the annual Middle East Service Training in cooperation with General Motors. The training sessions cover the maintenance of Chevrolet and Cadillac models.

This training activity, specifically tailored to the Middle East region, is performed by specialists who came from General Motors centres in the USA and Canada, and is attended by delegates from regional GM dealerships and agencies. This is the first time that Jordan hosts such an event.

These advanced training workshops are an integral component of AUTOTECH's corporate strategy to upgrade the proficiency of the Service Centre and its personnel, to keep them abreast with the latest technological developments in the field. All those activities are aimed at meeting and exceeding the company's customers' expectations.

INVITATION TO RETENDER THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT TO THE NEW FACULTY OF EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES AT YARMOUK UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB)

1- The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has received a loan related to Human Resources Development Project from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development the World Bank and intends to apply part of proceeds of this loan to eligible payments for the supply of the goods and services covered by this invitation

2- The Respective purchasers namely: Yarmouk University in Irbid, hereby invite local and international suppliers of educational equipment in subject being taught in the Faculty of Educational Sciences of YU to apply for bidding documents and to submit tenders (bids) for the equipment to be provided to the various laboratories, workshops and classrooms of the faculty.

3- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information and inspect the Bidding Documents at The Liaison Office of Yarmouk University located at The Higher Council for Science and Technology building inside the campus of the Royal Scientific Society, in Amman between hours 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Saturday through Wednesday beginning July 23, 1995 to Aug. 9, 1995.

4- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be obtained from the above referred office upon submission of a written application and payment of a non-refundable fee. All payments will be made by a bank draft or certified bank check in the currency of the purchaser's choice or in cash made out in favour of the Yarmouk University. Price of purchasing the documents would be the equivalent amount of Jordanian Dinars as follows:

- For delivery to personal callers JD 15,000 per lot.
- For delivery by local mail to local Bidders by courier Service JD 25,000 per lot plus JD 50 for all lots.

Bids will be priced and submitted separately for each individual Lot. Contracts will be awarded on a Lot (by/Lot) basis to the lowest evaluated bidders who would prove capable to carry out the requirements of the contracts to be signed. Bidders could be awarded, more than one contract of each.

Closing date for the bid submission will be noon of September 23, 1995. Bids shall have a validity of 90 days and will be accompanied by a bid security to the value of about 3% of the Bid Price and of duration of 120 days.

Yarmouk University

ANNOUNCES THE INVITATION TO TENDER
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JPMC announces the invitation to bid No. 34F/95 for the supply of:-
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The tender documents are available at JPMC offices in Amman, Supply Department, until 2.00 p.m. local time Thursday August 10, 1995. Application for documents should be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee of JD (125) for each set of tender documents.

The closing date for submitting bids is 12.00 hours local time Tuesday August 15, 1995.

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Iraq seeks dialogue with U.S.

DOHA (Agencies) — Iraq's foreign minister said his country sought a resumption of regular contacts with the United States, which has been the leading proponent of international sanctions against Iraq.

"When Washington expresses readiness for dialogue, Iraq will welcome that," Iraq's Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahaaf was quoted as saying Monday in the Qatari newspaper *Al-Arabiya*. "We are not enemies of the United States, nor do we enjoy friendly ties."

The foreign minister was in Qatar as part of a tour of several Middle East countries. He is seeking to win Arab support for the lifting of United Nations sanctions and to improve relations that were damaged by Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Sahaaf said the sanc-

tions should be lifted once Iraq hands over to United Nations weapons inspectors file of Iraq's biological weapons programme.

The file is to be given to chief U.N. weapons inspector Rolf Ekeus in August, and Mr. Sahaaf said the inspectors should take only a month to verify the information.

Iraq has threatened to stop cooperation with the United Nations if the sanctions aren't lifted following the disclosure of the germ warfare material.

The embargo has crippled Iraq's economy by stopping its oil exports.

Mr. Sahaaf left Qatar on Sunday for Morocco.

Meanwhile Qatar has assured the European Union (EU) that it remains committed to maintaining sanctions on Iraq until Baghdad complies with all U.N. resolutions.

They said that Qatari Fore-

ign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Al Thani made the comments in a regular meeting with EU ambassador on Sunday when Mr. Al Sahaaf ended a three-day visit to the Gulf Arab state.

It was the first such meeting between EU ambassadors and the government on the Gulf Arab state's foreign policy since the new emir, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, took power last month.

"The position of Qatar was very clear. They have always said U.N. resolutions should be fully applied," one diplomat told Reuters by telephone from Doha.

"Of course they (Qataris) are supportive and worried about the situation caused by the sanctions but (Qatar) is reminding them (Iraqis) they must obey the resolutions," he said.

PLO denies conflict with Syria over Golan

AMMAN (R) — Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein said on Monday PLO claims to part of Syria's Golan Heights occupied by Israel should not sour ties with Damascus.

"I do not see any room for a Syrian-Palestinian conflict over it (the so-called Palestinian Golan)...," Mr. Hussein said at the end of a visit to Amman.

"The importance of the area is that it gave Palestinians a location in north Palestine and would allow us the advantage of being one of the countries that has a presence on the source and course of the Jordan River," he told reporters.

"It is of utmost importance in any discussion over water rights," he added.

Palestinian-Syrian ties have been tense since the PLO signed a self-rule peace deal with Israel in 1993.

The small parcel of land at stake is known as the Palestinian Himah which Mr. Hus-

seini said came under Syrian control after the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict.

Syria, which lost the heights to Israel in the 1967 war, wants the area back — the main issue in Israel-Syrian peace talks.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said in a newspaper interview on Sunday the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) wanted part of the heights that Syria is trying to recover.

It was the first such public disclosure of a Palestinian claim in the Syrian Golan Heights.

Mr. Hussein said Palestinians "insist that any Palestinian land that fell under Israeli occupation in 1967 should return back to the Palestinians."

He said an idea was mooted before 1967 under which Syria would allow creation of a Palestinian state in that area, "which had been liberated for a few hours and

had a Palestinian flag raised during a 1968 military combat with Israel."

Mr. Hussein said there were other areas, excluding the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, that were seized by Israel in the 1967 war and which Palestinians would claim in future talks.

He cited Oujah Khafir, along the southern Gaza border with Israel, and other areas "that would give Palestinians more rights in water and allow for wider Palestinian territory than now."

Mr. Mubarak did not say how much land the Palestinians were claiming but said "the solution was for all parties to go back to the border lines before June 5, 1967."

Syria wants full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan. Israel says it will not disclose the scope of any fullback until Damascus agrees to establish normal ties.

U.S. offers to mediate in Kurdish feud

ISTANBUL (R) — An Iraqi Kurdish group said on Monday the United States had offered to mediate between rival factions in northern Iraq to end months of armed feuding.

The Ankara office of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) said in a statement the U.S. State Department invited it and the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) to meet U.S. officials in an attempt to break the negotiations deadlock.

The State Department's director of northern Gulf affairs, Robert Deutsch, in a letter to PUK leader Jalal Talabani, called for an end to the fighting that has split northern Iraq into rival zones.

The clashes have killed some 3,000 people over the past year and paralysed a power-sharing agreement that followed regional elections in 1992.

The PUK statement quoted the letter as saying: "Because of our common interests, the United States is willing to engage actively in seeking a comprehensive solution to the disputes."

Turkey, which says the power vacuum in northern Iraq aids Turkish Kurdish guerrillas based there, also expressed displeasure with the continuing conflict in a foreign ministry statement issued on Monday.

Turkish officials twice this year crossed into northern Iraq in attempts to drive out guerrillas from the Kurdistan Workers Party, which is fighting for independence or autonomy in southeastern Turkey.

The PUK, which said there were only sporadic clashes the past few days, said it accepted the U.S. initiative and offered to uphold a ceasefire if the KDP also respected it.

The letter also urged the Iraqi Kurds, whose region is protected from Iraqi government attacks by an allied air force of U.S., British and French planes based in Turkey, not to negotiate with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Since a "safe haven" to protect the Kurds was set by the allies after the 1991 Gulf war, Baghdad has occasionally appealed to the Iraqi Kurds to open negotiations with it, something the Kurds reject.

10 mujahedeen killed, Italian dies in Algeria

ALGIERS (AFP) — A 48-year-old Italian man who was badly wounded in an attack in a working class suburb south of Algiers last week has died, the Italian embassy in Algiers said Monday.

Dino Fausti, manager of an import-export firm who was shot in an attack on July 17, will be repatriated Thursday to Italy following his death over the weekend, an embassy official said.

He was killed in the town of Kouba but the attack was never claimed and the motive was not known.

His death brings to 87 the total number of foreigners — 10 of them Italian — killed in incidents blamed on Islamic militants since Algeria's political crisis began in January 1992.

Meanwhile, Liberté newspaper reported Monday that 10 veterans of Algeria's war of independence, or mujahedeen, had been assassinated over the past few days.

It also said that Islamic militants blew up a bridge overnight Saturday at Lakhdaria, 70 kilometres east of Algiers, a major link on the road between the capital and the east, the private newspaper reported.

Liberté said four mujahedeen were taken from their homes at Souk Al Tenine, in Kabylie, and had their throats cut. Four others were murdered at Drean, near Annaba in the east and two others near Al Tarf, on the Tunisian border.

No official confirmation of the reports was available.

In 1994, 122 mujahedeen were assassinated in attacks

attributed to armed Islamic groups, official estimates show.

Liberté said the former war veterans were "mercilessly hunted because they are the vanguard of the resistance to Islamic armed groups," adding that they "are developing collaboration with security forces, which help to flush out these groups, with their knowledge of the maquis and mountains."

They are particularly active in self-defence groups, and often form the skeleton of new district police forces.

The Lakhdaria bridge spans the Oued Isser river and is located at the mouth of the famous Lakhdaria gorges. Armed groups are very active in this region.

Last week, a key bridge on the route to Kabylie was destroyed at Isser, 60 kilometres (37 miles) east of Algiers. Other infrastructure targets, mostly bridges, have been sabotaged around the capital over the past few weeks.

Liberté said that armed groups may have been trying to isolate Algiers.

A recent upsurge of violence comes after security forces apparently made important gains over the last three months in the centre of Algiers and outlying suburbs.

Algeria has been wracked by violence for three and a half years, after the authorities cancelled general elections which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win. An estimated 30,000 people have been killed in the conflict.

Afghan opposition claims it captured Bamiyan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Opponents of Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani said on Monday they had captured the central Bamiyan province from government forces.

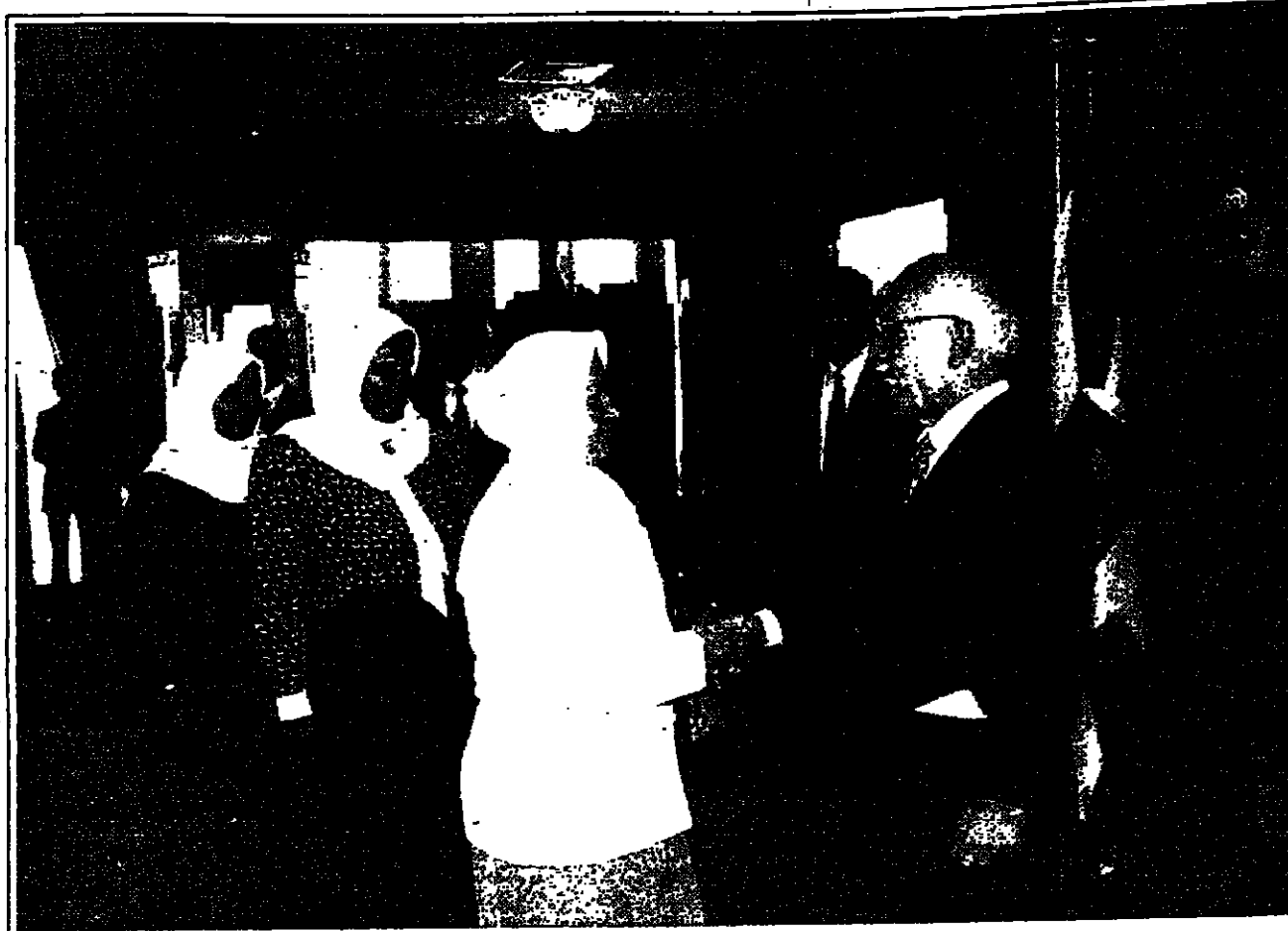
The forces of the Jumbish-I-Milli movement of powerful Northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum and the Shiite Muslim Hezbi Wahdat party took control of the province, including the capital city of Bamiyan, on Sunday, a Jumbish spokesman in Islamabad said, quoting information received from Afghanistan. There was no immediate independent confirmation of the report.

The presidential forces had ousted the pro-Iranian

Wahdat from Bamiyan town last month and later claimed the capture of most of the province in one of its most significant gains in recent months.

Jumbish spokesman Maulvi Abdul Baqi Turkistani told Reuters that Jumbish and Wahdat forces had also captured large quantities of weapons from the presidential forces.

He said heavy fighting was raging between the two sides in the strategic Salang pass area, where Gen. Dostum's forces had blocked the main highway from their capital, Kabul, to its central Asian neighbours.



His Majesty King Hussein yesterday greets newly elected mayors and municipal council members at Al Hussein Sports City (see story page 1)

'Israel willing to negotiate Jerusalem'

AMMAN (AP) — A senior Palestinian official said Monday Israeli taboos concerning the future of Jerusalem were breaking down, but that no public policy change could be expected before next year's general elections.

"The Israelis are ready to negotiate the status of Jerusalem," said Faisal Hussein, a leading Palestinian official from the holy city who serves as minister of Jerusalem affairs in the Palestinian National Authority.

"Israeli taboos concerning the holy city have started to collapse," he told a news conference at the end of a four-day visit to Jordan.

"For instance, they proposed a joint Arab-Israeli municipal council for the city," said Mr. Hussein.

"The reality is that they are forced to negotiate on Jerusalem, but they cannot declare anything before the elections because such a move would be tantamount to political suicide," he added.

Jerusalem, holy to Muslims, Jews and Christians is considered one of the thorniest issues in the Middle East peace process which began in October 1991.

East Jerusalem was under

Jordanian rule until it was seized by Israel along with the West Bank and Gaza in the 1967 Middle East war.

Israel has since annexed the Arab part of the city as part of what it says is the eternal capital of the Jewish state.

The Palestinians, however, want east Jerusalem to be the capital of a Palestinian state they want to build in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Under a 1993 accord that granted the Palestinians self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, Israel agreed to begin negotiations on Jerusalem in 1996.

Mr. Hussein, the former head of the Palestinian delegation to peace negotiations with Israel, said East Jerusalem has preserved its Arab and Palestinian identity despite Israeli attempts to Judaize the holy city.

He said: "We still control the civil and religious affairs of Arab citizens in Jerusalem and we provide an Arabic curriculum for our students...anyway I do not think that any Israeli can wander freely in East Jerusalem because it is purely an Arab city."

Gunmen kill cleric in south Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Four gunmen, including a boy, attacked a car in southern Egypt and killed a Muslim cleric after he had performed at a religious ceremony, police sources said Monday.

The shooting occurred late Sunday when the assailants stopped the car carrying Imam Khaled Abdul Hamid Metwally, 35, his brother and two other clerics through the village of Beni Kora in Assiut province, 320 kilometres south of Cairo.

The gunmen shot Imam Metwally, then tied up the other passengers and stole their money before fleeing the scene, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

It was not clear whether the assailants were after the victims' money or were targeting the imam because of his performances, which includes religious chanting and singing. Extremists consider singing in religious ceremonies sinful.

Police did not identify the assailants, but said one of them appeared to be about 12

years old.

Assiut is a stronghold for Muslim militants, who have waged a three-year campaign against Egypt's secularist government in a bid to replace it with strict Islamic rule. More than 780 people have died in the violence, most of them police and militants.

In another development, the government charged 15 suspected Muslim extremists with the deaths of 10 policemen and civilians in southern Egypt.

The trial will begin Aug. 12, though four of the men are still at large. Other charges include the attempted murder of seven policemen and civilians. Al Akhbar newspaper said Monday. The indictment did not say when or in which towns the attacks occurred.

Prosecutors often try large groups of suspects for attacks stemming from clashes between Muslim militants have been executed since extremists began their campaign in 1992.

Photos show British soldiers drinking before killing done

LARNACA, Cyprus (AFP) — Photographs showing three British soldiers on a drinking spree shortly before they allegedly battered Danish tour guide Louise Jensen to death were shown in court here Monday.

Police found nineteen pictures in a camera on the front seat of the soldiers' Mini Moke car when they were arrested on the night of Jensen's disappearance on the holiday island of Cyprus.

The prosecution claims the three, Jeffrey Pernell, Justin Fowler and Alan Ford, carried out the savage killing on September 13, 1994, after a heavy drinking session.

One photograph showed the soldiers holding up their

drinks and smiling at the Jasmine bar in the southeast holiday resort of Ayia Napa.

Others showed them at the Volcano bar in the town, while barman Fotis Menzas told Larnaca Assizes court he saw the men at the Mimos pub.

Mr. Pernell, 23, of Oldbury in the West Midlands, Mr. Ford, 26, of Birmingham, Mr. Fowler, 27, of Falmouth in Cornwall, all deny the charge of manslaughter, abduction and conspiracy to rape.

It is alleged they knocked Ms. Jensen off the motorbike while she was riding with her boyfriend as they left a petrol station in Ayia Napa.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq accuses Iran of blocking normalisation

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq on Monday accused Iran of blocking efforts to normalise relations between the two countries following their 1980-1988 war. "Iraq has always been concerned about applying resolution 598" of the U.N. Security Council which ended the war between the two countries, Saad Al Faisal, undersecretary of state for foreign affairs, said. "If Iran seriously wants to reach a comprehensive peace, it must release all our prisoners and return our assets," the official told the state-run Al Jumhuriya newspaper. Baghdad said it has no Iranian prisoners of war and accuses Tehran of holding 20,000 Iraqi prisoners, while Iran says 5,000 of its nationals are still held in Iraq. Iraq also demands the return of 115 warplanes and 33 civilian airliners flown to Iran to escape U.S.-led forces in the 1991 Gulf war. A senior Iranian foreign ministry advisor, Ali Khorram, on Friday accused Iraq of not respecting resolution 598 and said the question of POWs and missing people were the main stumbling block.

Greece returns 60 Egyptians

CAIRO (AFP) — Greece has turned back 60 Egyptians who were duped by travel agencies into joining fraudulent schemes to find work in Europe, airport officials here said on Monday. Fourteen of the Egyptians returned to Cairo on Sunday and 46 more were expected later Monday, they said. The young men, from various parts of Egypt, had paid up to 1,000 Egyptian pounds (\$300) to travel agencies which provided them with a visa for Greece and told them that would qualify them for work. At Athens airport, Greek authorities refused them entry, suspecting that they had come for jobs not for tourism.

Egypt asks London, Bonn for maps of mines

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt has contacted Britain and Germany to obtain maps of the minefields left on its soil after the end of World War II, an Egyptian foreign ministry official said on Monday. Egypt has already removed 11 million land mines from its deserts which became battlegrounds between the British and German armies in the conflict. But some 23 million explosives still remain spread over 288,000 hectares (711,360 acres), said Mahmoud Karam, director of the ministry's disarmament department. Egypt has drawn up a \$200 million plan to remove the mines but will need the countries that laid the explosives to contribute \$150 million towards the cost, Mr. Karam said. The minefields have impeded Egypt's tourist and agricultural development projects, Mr. Karam added.

Egyptian, Saudi navies start exercises

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — The navies of Egypt and Saudi Arabia started one-week of military exercises in the Red Sea on Monday. The exercises, named Coral One for the famous undersea formations in the area, were being carried out in Saudi regional waters, Egypt's Middle East News Agency reported. Earlier this month, Egypt's navy held exercises with British and American ships in the Red Sea. The games triggered complaints from Sudan, which saw them as a provocation in light of deteriorating relations between the two neighbours. The Egyptian-Sudanese dispute over the area of Halaib along their borders on the coast was renewed after Egypt accused Sudanese officials of playing a role in the June 26 assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak. Egypt holds regular manoeuvres with friendly Arab and Western forces.

Father faints at return of son from death

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian "Tom Sawyer" made his father faint with shock when the seven-year-old boy turned up at his own funeral after four days away from home. His father, Sayed Abdul Fattah, had searched Cairo's hospitals and police stations for his son Karim and eventually claimed a likely corpse in the city's main mortuary. Karim, who had been visiting relatives in the country, came home just as his father was receiving mourners in the traditional funeral tent set up outside his home, the government newspaper Al Akhbar reported Monday.

Kuwait plans to deport street vendors, car washers

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The government plans to ban and deport all vendors and car washers working in Kuwait streets, labour minister Ahmad Kleib said Monday. The ban on such foreign workers will take effect in October and the labour minister has asked their sponsors to begin procedures for deporting them, Mr. Kleib told Al Qabas newspaper. "The ministry recently expelled a certain number of beggars and their names were put on a black list" to prevent them from returning to Kuwait, he added. Most street vendors and car washers are from Iran and southeast Asia.

Man shoots teenager, rapes girlfriend

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — A man shot dead a 15-year-old boy and raped his 13-year-old girlfriend at the weekend after the boy had refused at gunpoint to have sex with his girlfriend, South African police said Monday. The two teenagers had been dancing till the early hours of Sunday at a nightclub in the Johannesburg satellite town of Randburg when they accepted a lift home from a man in his early twenties, police said. But the man drove them to an isolated road where he ordered them to strip naked and demanded that the boy, Donovan Richardson, have sex with his unnamed girlfriend.



Prince with golden gun receives not so royal welcome

CAPRI, Italy (AP) — Most visitors come to this resort island armed only with a travel guide. Saudi Prince Abdul Aziz Khaled showed up with a small army. Customs authorities discovered the arsenal aboard the prince's yacht, Golden Odyssey, and a second vessel carrying a security team for the nephew of King Fahd. Dozens of sophisticated weapons, including a golden gun and two ceramic guns capable of avoiding metal detectors, were among the cache aboard the luxury boat, which has 20 apartments and an operating room staffed by six surgeons, the Italian News Agency (ANSA) reported.

The prince and his entourage had permits to carry the arms to another island, but told authorities the prince's wife changed their plans and decided to come to Capri, off the coast of Naples. After a delay of several hours, the dispute was settled. Despite the inconvenience, the prince behaved royally. "He is a man of great modesty and humanity," said the head of Capri's customs office, Augusto Giordano.

Chinese police seize 113,000 for prostitution

BEIJING (AFP) — Chinese police seized 113,000 people for involvement in prostitution in the first five months of the year, a report said Monday, as the authorities launched a new campaign against the vice. The individuals were caught in 58,000 separate cases, the China Women's News quoted the Ministry of Public Security as saying, adding that both figures were up about 32 per cent on the same period last year. In 1994, a total of 288,000 people were netted in 143,000, up 16.6 per cent and 15.4 per cent respectively over the previous year, it said. The figures were released three days after China announced the launch of a nationwide campaign against prostitution that is to last until September. At a meeting on the campaign Friday, State Councillor Luo Gan called on party committees and governments to curb prostitution by strengthening controls over hotels, dance halls, karaoke clubs and other entertainment venues.

Luo said prostitution "not only disturbs public order and leads to other crimes, but also poisons young people and impairs social ethics."

Prostitution, which disappeared from China after the Communists came to power in 1949, has returned with a vengeance since the country launched its economic reforms 16 years ago. The campaign is being organised jointly by the Ministries of Public Security and Culture, the State Administration for Industry and Commerce and the All-China Women's Federation.

McEnroe denies physically abusing neighbour

NEW YORK (AP) — There's no love lost between John McEnroe and one of his Manhattan neighbours — a 61-year-old woman who claims the former top-ranked tennis star terrorised her in a dispute over their building's elevator. Eleanor Weinstein told the Daily News that, raving McEnroe, whose volatile on-court behaviour is well-documented, grabbed her from behind and spun her around when she complained the use of the elevator in their Upper West Side building. "I was afraid for my life," Ms. Weinstein said. "He was wild. He was absolutely out of control. I was so frightened of this raging maniac."

A spokesperson for McEnroe, 36, released a statement Saturday night. "Angry words were exchanged by both parties, but the other incidents reported in the newspaper story bear no resemblance to the facts," the statement read. "It appears to be another incident of someone and her lawyer trying to deal with a situation through the media rather than resolve disagreements."

McEnroe told of McEnroe screaming at her. "Who the hell are you?" she quoted McEnroe as saying.

PARIS (R) — when a bomb exploded in central Paris, the scene, the Saint-Michel explosion was office said. M. attack, said h ment's conce ment Speaker Assembly, ex called for a officials held sand blast occu the seriously i the blast. Cas lance to hosp

CAIRO (AFP) — drowned in th after their m sized while ta their village i Egyptian polic day. The Girl nine to 15 ye daily to Giza s where they, w ing and woul every night to the Menutia re of 30 girls we which was carri its legal capac sized on Mond cials said. A has been ope the boat's two c said.

CAIRO (API) — bers of the Mu hood moveme arrested in the area, raising t number in cu officials said T eight were deta in Kafr El-S kilometers nor said the offici on condition o

PARIS (AFP) — main leaders o Islamic Salva (FIS). Abdelkac launched a hun the weekend i where he is be Arabic daily A reported Tues London-based p Mr. Hachani's saying that he b begun his hunge day to protest a venting him fr family or lay Hachani, preside provision eve had taken pr negotiations bet and Algerian who blamed him lure of the talk ago.

BUJUMBURA — Ten people have and 15 wounded revenge attack M Burundi capit national radio Tuesday A opened fire on carrying Hutus, majority in the was apparently i an attack on F Mutanga Univer which left eight ing four Tutsi st ambush happen afternoon in the city, on the roa pon, while the b ing for the mu Populated Buter radio reports saic details were ava

COLOMBO, Sri — Tamil rebels a military patrol, soldiers and inju northwestern Sri Tuesday, milita said. The soldie turning from a n tion when they w shortly before de wankulam villag district, 145 kilon of Colombo. The several days after rebels threaten thousands of Mus unless they flee town by Aug. 1. "We need only turn Puttalam into dead bodies as Kattankudi and E rebels said in a le political and religi on July 18 in Putt Most of the 27,00 the town are Mu